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HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
SOLDIERS' HOME  
OF  
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F. GUTKUNST.

PHOTOTYPE.

SOLDIERS' HOME MONUMENT,  
MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY,  
PHILADELPHIA.



HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
SOLDIERS' HOME,  
IN THE  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,

*Incorporated, April 9th, 1864,*

SUCCEEDING THE  
COOPER SHOP VOLUNTEER REFRESHMENT  
COMMITTEE,

Organized, May, 1861.

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EDITED BY  
F. L. SARMIENTO.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOLDIERS' HOME.  
1886.



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## Introduction.



AN account of the organization and successful career of an institution of any character must have a value as a guide to those who come after, especially for those whose kindly inclinations may lead, or whom the exigency of the moment may force into the same path.

This is particularly true in the case of the history of a patriotic charity like "The Soldiers' Home," in the city of Philadelphia, inspired, as it was, by the sudden and unexpected call of the hour, and conducted amid the turmoil of civil strife.

None but the officers and managers can understand fully the many difficulties which had to be met and overcome.

New questions were to be answered. New methods to be tested. A problem was presented which had to be solved.

Some of the gentlemen interested in this good work even pushed their inquiries into foreign lands. The famous Chelsea Hospital (England's home for her war veterans) was investigated, both as to its discipline and its general management. But the iron-rule of military discipline which answered there, was found inoperative here as well as antagonistic to the genius of our country.

After careful consideration, it was finally determined that the only feasible plan of operation was to put the inmates of the in-



stitution *on their honor*, leaving the daily requirements to be governed by the action of the Board of Managers. Fortunately there were among these gentlemen some practical business men whose skill and patience, together with the aid of the lady visitors, have conducted the Home with eminent success.

This result was attained by no happy accident, as at times rewards half-made efforts. It was the triumph of hard work.

The merchant left his wares, the banker his desk, the lawyer his cause, and the mechanic his work to devote themselves to this higher duty.

In spite, however, of the care and devotion of those interested, every organization must go through its different stages of mistakes, of tribulations and misunderstandings, before it can see even "from afar" its final victory.

Thus, in a history of this character, it might be said "where we fell short we hereby warn others to greater caution; and where we succeeded, we show only the road, we trust, to even better success, should our country again need a like work."

The institution, then, in which our thoughts, efforts, and affections have been for so long a time entwined will not die—so long as this history of its birth and growth exists.

## A Brief Sketch of the Parent Institution.



IN writing a history of the Soldiers' Home, reference, though necessarily brief, must be made to "The Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon."

The official inauguration of this institution may be said to have transpired on that bright May morning, in 1861, when Col. Blenker's regiment was welcomed and feasted.

From the humble charity of a few good men and women handing coffee through the car windows to the tired and hungry soldiers, passing through this city en route to the seat of war, it had grown to be an institution capable of feeding one thousand men in an hour; and before its ministrations closed, had given food and shelter to over 600,000 of our soldiers.

But as the history of this noble work has already been ably written, it is unnecessary to do more here than call attention to it as the foundation of kindred institutions which have continued the work inaugurated, to a glorious and successful ending.

Referring to these institutions as they arose, the "UNION VOLUNTEER REFRESHMENT SALOON" was identical in its objects with the Cooper Shop Saloon, and its operations were always in unison with its sister charity.

An outgrowth from the "old Cooper Shop" was "THE COOPER SHOP VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL." Among the institutors of this Hospital was an eminent physician, Dr. Andrew Nebinger, who, despite his large and lucrative practice, gave his services day and night to this charitable work, without other pay than the approval of his own conscience, and the respect and gratitude of all with whom he came in contact.

### A Home for Soldiers Proposed.

Various as were the benefits dispensed by these institutions, there were those among our citizens whose foresight disclosed new demands and rising necessities, far broader and higher in the scale of charity.

If the strong, marching to the battle, needed refreshment and cheer, how much more was due to those who returned bleeding, maimed, or prostrated by the insidious fevers of southern swamps—many returning wrecked in body and in hopes?

This question was answered by patriotic men, whose tender hearts combined with liberal hands—men whose time was demanded of them by the business of life,—to establish the institution so pleasantly and appropriately named "The Soldiers' Home," in the city of Philadelphia. Chief among these gentlemen was Mr. Edward S. Hall, who, beside being prominent from the earliest history of the old Cooper Shop Saloon, had been an officer and a most active and useful manager in each of the successive organizations arising from it, until we find him to-day still at his volunteer post as Secretary, *after a period of over twenty years!*

To this gentleman has been conceded the honor of being the



first to foresee the arising demands here referred to. Other gentlemen hastened to second and adopt his views, and the result was that twin efforts were instituted to meet and fill these charitable demands. These plans eventually broadened out, until they culminated in what has been so widely and honorably known as THE SOLDIERS' HOME; the first institution in our country to offer a home to the honorably discharged soldier or sailor who had been wounded, maimed, or prostrated by disease in its service.

These twin organizations bore respectively the names of "THE COOPER SHOP SOLDIERS' HOME" and "THE SOLDIERS' HOME IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA."

The following extracts from the minutes of the Secretary of the "Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home," prior to merger with the twin institution bearing the broader name of "The Soldiers' Home," will introduce us to the early history of both charities.

We find in these minutes, under date of June 5th, 1862, in pursuance of a call on the part of several gentlemen who wished to enlarge the benefits of the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon by establishing a home for the returning disabled soldiers and sailors, bearing honorable discharges from our army or navy—that the herein named gentlemen assembled, and the following proceedings were reported:

Present: Dr. E. Wallace, William M. Cooper, H. R. Warriner, George R. Birch, Thomas H. Rice and C. L. Pascoe.

On motion of William M. Cooper, Dr. E. Wallace was called to the chair, and C. L. Pascoe selected Secretary.

A majority of the Board of Managers not being present, the meeting was adjourned until June 9th. when the following officers were formally elected:

Dr. Ellerslie Wallace, Pres't.

Wm. M. Cooper, Vice-Pres't.

Wm. Struthers, Treas.

Geo. R. Birch, Cor. Sec.

C. L. Pascoe, Jr., Rec. Sec.

H. R. Warriner, Solicitor.

Mr. Pascoe, however, immediately presented his resignation as secretary, whereupon, Mr. Edward S. Hall, who has ever since held that position, was unanimously elected to the office.

To show the broad views of the organizers of this charity we may refer to some of the resolutions adopted at one of the very earliest meetings, *i.e.*: "Resolved, that the benefits of the Home be extended to all soldiers of the 'Union,' without regard to residence—those who are in the most needy circumstances to have the preference."

And this resolve was firmly adhered to during its entire career.

The only requisite to secure its benefits was the evidence of honorable discharge by the Government. If the soldier or sailor behaved himself, he was privileged to stay beneath that hospitable roof, until he recovered his health sufficiently to enable him to earn his own living, left voluntarily, or died. No barriers in the way of State boundaries, of color, nation, religion, or politics, appear among its records.

The next resolution referred to, shows the high appreciation held by the managers of the value of womans' aid in such undertakings. The resolution reads: "that a committee be appointed to confer with some of the prominent wealthy and influential ladies of Philadelphia and invite them to co-operate with the managers in the cause."

The next thing was to secure a suitable building for the purposes of this great charity. In this matter our City Councils came patriotically and promptly to the aid of the association. A large building at the corner of Race and Crown Streets which had been used by the General Government as a Hospital, was placed by them at the disposal of the Board of Managers, rent free.

Too much praise cannot be given our City Fathers for this liberal action.

To obtain full possession of the premises and the out-buildings which had been constructed by the medical department of the Government, was not quite so easy a task ; but at length, largely through the influence and personal appeal of Dr. Wallace, that gentleman was enabled to report (June 9th, 1863) that the Government authorities had definitely directed the buildings to be turned over for the purposes of the "Home."

It was in September, however, before the building came under the complete control of the Board of Managers,—and not until nearly three months of self-sacrifice and labor on the part of the various committees, that it was formally dedicated to its noble work, December 22d, 1863.

This was done with appropriate religious and other ceremonies, the eloquent oration of the occasion being delivered by the Rev. E. W. Hutter, D.D., late of the New Street Lutheran Church.

But this day, joyous in other respects, possessed particular gloom for the friends of the Home. Even as the words of its dedication were being pronounced, Miss Anna M. Ross, its early benefactress, was dying. Her last thoughts were of the Home. Says the *Philadelphia Press* in its feeling notice of her death : "On Sunday morning last her speech momentarily revived, and



she said something about the 'Soldiers' Home.' This was all that could be understood."

A figure of more than ordinary prominence in all the charitable organizations at which we have glanced in this history, Miss Ross had particularly identified herself with the "Soldiers' Home." As early as June, 1862, when Principal of the "Cooper Shop Hospital," she had, as the organizer and directress of a Fair, secured the handsome sum of \$2400 to serve as a foundation for the Home.

Her disinterestedness and energy were highly appreciated, and her loss especially felt by the ladies and gentlemen who celebrated, on the day of her death, the formal opening of the Home.

In the resolutions of the Board of Managers, is the following beautiful tribute to her worth :

" Thus then, He ' who doeth all things well ' has in His infinite wisdom removed from time to eternity Miss Anna M. Ross, whose great practical devotion to the advancement of the great humanitarian, charitable, benevolent and patriotic interests of her time, and especially her great untiring, and self-sacrificing devotion to the best interests of the soldier—whether prostrate and suffering from wounds and diseases, or the privations incident to camp life—has fixed her in the grateful recollection of the many who have been relieved, comforted and blessed by her grateful acts of kindness and attention, and has also established for her a reputation for usefulness and good works which will outlive crumbling monuments of stone and corroding columns of bronze. It is therefore proper for us who have witnessed her achievements to bear our testimony to her good and ennobling works, and to declare that when the history of the past three

years shall have been written by the pen of the faithful historian, that in the chapter which he shall devote to Philadelphia and her citizens, one of its brightest and most attractive pages will be that which will record the achievements and self-sacrificing labors of Miss Anna M. Ross."

As a proof that her memory still lives among all our people, and particularly with our soldiers, many of whom she had doubtless tenderly nursed, we insert an extract from the proceedings of Decoration Day, 1884:

#### **Honoring Anna M. Ross' Grave.**

A grave that attracted particular attention at Monument Cemetery was that of Anna M. Ross, an eminently patriotic lady, who died during the war from illness contracted while nursing wounded and sick soldiers. Post No. 94, which is named in honor of the lady, before proceeding to the American Mechanics' Cemetery, stopped on the way at the grave of their patron and elaborately decorated it with flowers, wreaths, and garlands. A bed of cut flowers reclined on the marble slab at the base of the headstone, also a pillow of immortelles and other tributes. A large portrait of the lady was placed at the head of the grave in the midst of a frame of flowers.—*Record*, May 31, 1884.

It is with pleasure that we turn to a more propitious event in the history of the Home.

#### **The Entertainment of the 29th Regt., P. V.**

The reception and entertainment of the brave men and officers of the 29th Regiment, neither the gallant veterans nor those connected with the Home would willingly forget.

This regiment had carried the old flag heroically through the Valley of the Shenandoah; through the terrific storm of shot and shell at Fredericksburg; at Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg; and waved it, amid fire and smoke, on Lookout Mountain.

Their term of service having expired, they had, "to a man," immediately reenlisted, and were now on a thirty days' furlough to visit home and friends. They were the first to reach this city under these circumstances, and the city authorities, the Board of Managers of the Home, and the citizens generally, determined to give them a fitting welcome.

The Managers of the "Home" decided to provide an elegant and substantial dinner for the heroes, under the supervision of Mr. Robert P. King, President of the Board.

After much delay the gallant and popular "29th," commanded by their brave Colonel William Ricketts, and accompanied by their former Colonel John K. Murphy, arrived at the West Philadelphia depot, December 23d, 1863.

A bright and beautiful day greeted their return home. The sidewalks were lined with cheering and enthusiastic crowds, the immediate space about the depot being occupied by the relatives and friends of the "soldier boys."

Many of the military and civic organizations escorted them to the Home.

Here a substantial dinner awaited them, elegantly garnished with flags and flowers, and comprising the good things of the season.

The *Press* of the next day, after referring to the enlivening and touching scenes in front of the building, says: "The Committee attached to the Soldiers' Home were profuse in their dis-



play of flags and flowers, inside and outside the building; and to them belongs great credit for the excellent manner in which they got up the repast for the officers and soldiers of the '29th.' "

Three hundred and fifty-three men, including officers, all that were left out of a regiment that had gone to the front 1000 strong, sat down to the table.

After their welcome dinner, and amid a universal feeling of satisfaction among the donors as well as the recipients of the feast, the gallant 29th, with flags flying and music playing, was escorted to "National Guards' Hall," where they were formally greeted and welcomed by the city authorities.

#### **The Home at Race and Crown Streets.**

The edifice in which the Home was thus brilliantly established was a building which, with sundry outbuildings, had been used by the General Government as an hospital.

On the establishment of more commodious hospitals by the General Government, the building at Race and Crown streets was vacated, the patients being transferred to new locations.

Its capacity, as stated in the Report of February 14th, 1865, was sixty beds, with a possible enlargement of accommodation to ninety beds, including twelve in the Hospital ward. The building requiring many repairs, the Government sold the beds, bedding, etc., in the building to the Home at merely nominal rates to compensate them for the cost of necessary repairs.

Meantime a number of gentlemen foresaw that the means, objects, and workings of the "Cooper Shop Home" must be enlarged. Stronger and more influential hands were required to meet the constantly growing demands, and to control and so manage it as to make it properly and entirely fulfil its mission.

Some of these gentlemen were seeking to charter a similar institution on a proposed larger scale, under the title of "The Soldiers' Home." Others were members of both these organizations.

A charter incorporating the "Soldiers' Home" was obtained through the instrumentality of the Hon. Charles Gibbons, who, together with a number of influential gentlemen, had been strongly interested in all the charitable institutions of this period, from the first outbreak of the war.

The "Cooper Shop Home" had been working under the Incorporation granted by the Court of Common Pleas, of the City of Philadelphia, February 15th, 1862.

A new and regular charter, with more extended powers, seemed, however, to be necessary, and under date of April 12th, 1864, we find in Secretary E. S. Hall's Minute book the following entry: "The Committee on Charter reported that they had sent the same to Harrisburg, and that the bill was in charge of T. J. Barger, Esq."

At the same meeting: "On motion of Dr. Nebinger, a committee of two were appointed to consult with the parties interested in the bill before the Legislature entitled 'The Soldiers' Home,' with a view to the union of the interests of the two corporations."

Messrs. Nebinger and King were appointed.

The project of union was further aided by the following clause adopted April 14th, 1864, and ordered to be incorporated in the projected Charter, then still before the Legislature:

"Section 9. That it shall and may be lawful for the Corporation named in this Act, and the Corporators named in an Act entitled 'An Act to Incorporate the Soldiers' Home in the City

of Philadelphia,' approved the 9th of April, 1864, to consolidate and merge the two corporations authorized by the said Acts, in one corporation, by the name of the Soldiers' Home, in the city of Philadelphia, with all the rights and privileges granted by and subject to the provisions of the said Act to incorporate the Soldiers' Home of the city of Philadelphia."

Messrs. Hall, King, and Cooper constituted the committee to confer with the Managers of the Soldiers' Home with the purpose of completing the proposed union.

How this union of twin institutions, created for one and the same purpose, was ultimately consummated, may be better explained by the full text of the Charters and accompanying Resolution :

**"An Act to Incorporate the Soldiers' Home, in the City of Philadelphia.**

"SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That Alonzo Potter, Thomas Brainerd, Mordecai L. Dawson, Dillwyn Parrish, Adolph Boric, J. Wheaton Smith, Phillips Brooks, Caleb Cope, William D. Lewis, Ellerslie Wallace, John Welsh, Thomas A. Newhall, John M. Whittall, William G. Moorhead, Thomas Tasker, Horace Binney, Jr., Charles Gibbons, John K. Findlay, Edward S. Hall, A. Nebinger, Daniel Smith, Jr., John Ashhurst, Stephen Colwell, Robert P. King, Henry C. Howell, George Trott, Lindley Smith, Daniel B. Cummins, Richard Newton, William Struthers, Edmund Smith, Edward C. Knight, Wistar Morris, James L. Claghorn, Edmund A. Souder, and all other persons who, with them, shall become contributors, agreeably to the pro-

visions of this Act, be and the same are hereby incorporated into a society, by the name and title of the Soldiers' Home, in the City of Philadelphia, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, with all the rights, powers, privileges, and incidents of a corporation, under the laws of this commonwealth, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

"SEC. 2. That the members of the said society shall consist only of such persons who shall annually contribute and pay the sum of ten dollars, and of such persons who shall pay fifty dollars or more at one time, as a contribution for life, to the purposes of the said society.

"SEC. 3. That the said society may establish one or more institutions for the relief, support, and education of soldiers and seamen who have been honorably discharged from the service of the United States, and of the children of such soldiers and seamen, and of such soldiers and seamen as may have died in the said service, under such rules and regulations as the said society may from time to time establish, not being repugnant to the laws of the United States or of this state.

"SEC. 4. That the affairs of the institution shall be conducted by a board of managers, to consist of twenty-four contributors, to be elected annually by ballot, on the second Monday in May, by the contributors who, at the time or before the election, shall have paid the full amount of their respective contributions: *Provided*, That the failure to elect on the day named shall not dissolve the said corporation, but the election may be held on any subsequent day, and the managers in office shall continue therein until their successors are chosen. Ten days' previous notice shall be given of every election of managers, by advertisement in two daily newspapers published in the city of Philadelphia.



“SEC. 5. That the board of managers, at their first stated meeting held after their election annually, shall appoint a visiting committee, to consist of not less than twelve gentlewomen, of the city of Philadelphia, which said committee shall have such power and authority, and shall be subject to such rules, by-laws and regulations, as the board of managers shall from time to time adopt; and the said committee may from time to time make such recommendations to the board of managers, respecting the internal affairs and management of the institution, as they may think necessary or proper.

“SEC. 6. That any minor received into the institution may, by the advice of the visiting committee, and the approval of the Orphans’ Court of the county of Philadelphia, be bound or put out by the board of managers as an apprentice to any art or business within this Commonwealth; but the term of such apprenticeship in the case of a male shall not extend beyond the twenty-first year of his age, and in case of a female beyond the eighteenth year of her age.

“SEC. 7. That the persons named in this act as incorporators, or a majority of them, shall meet in the city of Philadelphia, at such time and place as they may agree upon, and elect a board of managers to serve until the second Monday in May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and until their successors are chosen; and upon due notice that such election has been held, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Governor shall issue letters patent to the incorporators, in the usual form, which shall confer upon the said society, by the name aforesaid, all the rights, powers, privileges and franchises granted by this act.

“SEC. 8. That the said society, by its board of managers, may

purchase and hold such real estate as may be required for the purposes hereby authorized, not exceeding in the whole two hundred and fifty acres of land, and may borrow money on mortgage of the same, or any part thereof, for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings and carrying into effect the objects contemplated by this act.

“SEC. 9. That the said society, by its board of managers, may make all such by-laws, as may be deemed necessary and proper for the orderly management of its affairs, and may alter and change the same from time to time: *Provided*, That all such by-laws, and changes thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the contributors.

HENRY C. JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN P. PENNEY,  
Speaker of the Senate.

“APPROVED—The ninth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

A. G. CURTIN.”

**“An Act to Incorporate the Cooper Shop Soldiers’ Home  
in the City of Philadelphia.**

“WHEREAS, Certain citizens of the city of Philadelphia, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to wit: William M. Cooper, Cornelius V. Fort, William H. Maull, Adam M. Simpson, Henry W. Pearce, William H. Dennis, L. B. M. Dolby, R. H. Ransley, Philip Fitzpatrick, B. Frank Palmer, E. S. Hall, W. R. S. Cooper, E. S. Cooper, R. G. Simpson, William Sprole, H. R. Warriner,

Thomas Smith (President Bank of North America), G. W. Nickels, Dr. P. Nebinger, L. W. Thornton, Captain A. H. Cain, Captain R. H. Hoffner, H. H. Webb, E. T. Heraty, Jacob Plant, Joseph Coward, Jr., Tyler L. Coward, W. R. Mellen, Isaac Plant, Henry Dubosq, George R. Birch, Thomas H. Rice, J. P. Dettra, George Sefer, Joseph T. Packer, William Morrison, James Toomey, Edward Whetstone, Robert P. King, William Struthers, Joseph Perry, Evan Randolph, George D. Hoffner, Charles Spencer, Charles C. Wilson, H. A. Wetherill, Thomas M. Coleman, J. D. Watson, Charles Ide, J. Gates, James Sullender, C. L. Pascal, Joseph E. Sass, John L. Neill, John Grigg, Captain A. D. Davis, S. Morris Wahn, Daniel Smith, Samuel Welsh, William Bucknell, George T. Lewis, John T. Lewis, John P. Crozier, Dr. E. Wallace, Caleb Cope, M. L. Hallowell, Thomas Sparks, Jr., G. K. Zeigler, and Joseph Jeanes, who were associated together as an organization, known by the name of the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Committee, did petition and obtain from the honorable judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the county of Philadelphia, a decree of incorporation approved the fifteenth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, the object of which was the giving of protection, shelter, and a home to discharged and disabled soldiers and seamen of the United States of America :

“AND WHEREAS, This body known by the title of the Cooper Shop Soldiers’ Home of the city of Philadelphia, did, on the twenty-second day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, dedicate to the use and purpose set forth in the decree of the Court of Common Pleas referred to the Cooper Shop Soldiers’ Home of the city of Philadelphia, and which Home is now in operation :

“Now, therefore, more fully to carry out the object and purpose of said association :

“SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the several persons heretofore incorporated by the Court of Common Pleas for the city and county of Philadelphia, under the name of the Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home of the city of Philadelphia, and such other persons who shall become associated with them, be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name, style, and title of the Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home in the city of Philadelphia, and by the said name shall have perpetual succession, with all the rights incident to a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth.

“SEC. 2. That the said corporation is hereby authorized to establish and maintain in the city of Philadelphia, an institution to be called the Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home, for the accommodation and residence of disabled soldiers and seamen who have been or may hereafter be honorably discharged from the service of the United States of America ; and may acquire and hold in fee simple, or otherwise, such real estate and such other property as may be required for the said purpose, and shall be capable of receiving and holding any such property by devise, bequest, or otherwise.

“SEC. 3. That the affairs of said corporation shall be conducted by a board of fifteen managers, one-third of whom shall be elected by the incorporators aforesaid, and the contributors as hereinafter provided for, at a meeting to be held on the first Wednesday in January in each and every year: *Provided*, That at the first election held after the passage of this act, they shall



elect five managers to serve for one year, five for two years, and five for three years: *And provided further*, That the board of managers elected by the said Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home, shall be the managers of the corporation hereby created until the said election shall be held and their successors chosen.

"SEC. 4. That the board of managers, within one month after their election and organization, shall elect annually a board of twenty-five ladies to coöperate with them, as the by-laws may direct in the management of the affairs of the institution.

"SEC. 5. That the board of managers shall have power to make by-laws for the government of the institution, and the general business and affairs of the corporation, directing the mode of conducting the annual election, of organizing the board, of filling the vacancies that may occur therein, and prescribing the duties of officers, agents, and servants of the corporation: *Provided*, That the said by-laws shall be approved by the members for the time being of the said corporation, and shall not be in conflict with the laws of this Commonwealth.

"SEC. 6. That the board of managers may at any time require from the treasurer of the corporation a bond with sufficient surety conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties, and may remove him from office whenever the interests of the corporation shall demand such removal.

"SEC. 7. That from and after the passage of this act, a contribution of fifty dollars shall entitle the contributor to a life-membership without further liability on his part; all persons who shall contribute the sum of five dollars annually, shall enjoy the privileges of membership, and be entitled to vote at all meetings and elections: *Provided*, That no person shall be entitled to vote at any meeting or election, whose contribution

for any preceding year shall be then unpaid; any person contributing two dollars annually shall be entitled to honorary membership, and shall receive a certificate of the same.

“SEC. 8. That from and after the passage of this act, the personal property and effects of the Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home of the city of Philadelphia, shall become the property of, and the said corporation shall be merged in, the corporation hereby created.

“SEC. 9. That it shall and may be lawful for the corporation named in this act, and the corporators named in an act entitled ‘An Act to incorporate the Soldiers' Home in the city of Philadelphia,’ approved the ninth April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, to consolidate and merge the two corporations authorized by the said acts, in one corporation, by the name of the Soldiers' Home in the city of Philadelphia, with all the rights and privileges granted by and subject to the provisions of the said act to incorporate the Soldiers' Home of the city of Philadelphia.

HENRY C. JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN P. PENNEY,

Speaker of the Senate.

“APPROVED—The twentieth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

A. G. CURTIN.”

**Resolution passed at the Meeting of the Managers of the  
Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home, held on Tuesday  
Evening, March 28th, 1865.**

“*Resolved*, That in pursuance of the act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved the twen-

tieth day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, entitled ‘An Act to incorporate the Cooper Shop Soldiers’ Home,’ and by authority of the corporators therein named, all the moneys, rights, franchises, property, and effects of this Institution, be and they are hereby merged in ‘THE SOLDIERS’ HOME IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,’ and the Treasurer is hereby directed to account to the said last named corporation for the funds and investments in his hands, and transfer the same to the Treasurer thereof, and that Messrs. King, Hall, and Cooper, be a committee to confer with the Managers of ‘The Soldiers’ Home,’ and carry out the object of the said resolution.”

Thus was finally established THE SOLDIERS’ HOME in the city of Philadelphia, with a basis sufficiently broad to cover its noble purposes, with powers extensive enough to meet and satisfy its growing demands.

The work performed by the Home up to February 14th, 1865, is set forth in its First Report, under that date, of which the following is an abstract:

|                                                                                                                    |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| “The number of men admitted from the 22d of<br>December, 1863, to this date, February 14th,<br>1865, is, . . . . . | 645   |
| “The number of men discharged, left for their<br>homes, etc., is, . . . . .                                        | 590   |
| “Number died since 22d of December, 1863, . . . . .                                                                | 14    |
|                                                                                                                    | — 604 |
| “Number now in the Home, . . . . .                                                                                 | 41    |

“In addition to the regular inmates of the Home, who are well cared for in every respect, it has been our privilege to ex-

tend aid and comfort to very many soldiers temporarily in the city, passing home on furlough or sick leave, or returning to the front. Such men are ever welcome; our doors are at all times open to the Union soldier or sailor; the only requisite for admission to the Home being the production of vouchers showing honorable discharge, or absence from his post by proper authority.

“In the early part of our operations no record was kept of the number of meals furnished to sojourners, nor of the number of men who were comfortably lodged in our Home; but no week has passed since its opening, without very many availing themselves of the privilege thus granted. For the past two months, however, a faithful account has been kept, which shows that during that period, six thousand nine hundred and fifty-four meals have been supplied, and lodging furnished to two hundred and fifty-six temporary sojourners, or soldiers on sick leave or furlough passing through our city.

“Through the exertions of the lady managers, a chapel has been fitted up in the south end of the dining-room, where religious services conducted by clergymen of various denominations, and open to all, have been held on every Sunday afternoon, and on Friday evenings, which have been well attended by the inmates and many residents in the vicinity.”

The report then thanks the friends of the disabled soldiers and sailors for the liberal manner in which they have answered all appeals, and concludes as follows: “Many difficulties have been met, which experience only can overcome; but that great good has been accomplished there can be no doubt.

“A more desirable building is much needed—one to which a

workshop could be attached, would add greatly to the usefulness of the Home.”

As is here hinted, the now absorbing question with the managers of the Home, was how to meet the rapidly growing demands for more space. The building at Race and Crown Streets had already proved inadequate in this regard. Our army had probably been as intelligent a body of men as was ever put into the field—but there were many who with a little additional education, could be made more useful to themselves and their fellow-men.

Others there were, anxious to learn some light trade which would aid in making them self-sustaining.

The best plans by which to meet these and other requirements were debated and sifted. The best were adopted, and as usual, the noble ladies of the Institution came forward with the offer to raise the necessary funds—the sinews of action—to put these plans in operation.

This proposal took the shape of a Great Fair, to be second only to the memorable “Sanitary Fair,” through which so much good had been accomplished.

That brave soldier and revered citizen, the type of honor and loyalty to State and country, Major General George G. Meade, consented to lend the aid of his deserved popularity and influence on this occasion, and accepted the Presidency of the Board of Managers of the Fair.

“An appeal to the country” was issued, and was copied far and wide by the patriotic newspapers of the day. Extracts may be here given, as it sets forth some of the plans then proposed to add to the efficiency of the Home. It was dated on the memorable 14th of April, 1865, addressed



“ TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES :

“ The Ladies’ Visiting Committee of the Soldiers’ Home in the City of Philadelphia propose to open a National Fair at the Academy of Music on the 23d of October, 1865, for the purpose of raising a Building and Endowment Fund for the Institution with which they are connected.”

“ Although the Home is located in Philadelphia, its benefactions are not limited by State boundaries. Its doors are freely opened to every deserving soldier and sailor of the Republic who seeks admission.

“ The management contemplates an Industrial Department in the Institution, in which the inmates who are able to work at their trades may find employment and thus be relieved from the position of mere dependents on public charity.

“ It contemplates, also, a department where children of those who have died in the service will be tenderly protected and carefully educated, and prepared for suitable vocations.”

Then, after referring to the moral *right* incumbent upon us to provide a shelter for those honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who had returned broken in health, or perhaps maimed —after their glorious victories, the appeal properly adds :

“ The orphan children whose fathers have fallen in our great struggle, are also specially entitled to the public favor and protection. Let us provide a home worthy of their acceptance, and worthy of a people whose property they have protected, whose liberties they have secured, whose government they have saved, and whose hearts they have gladdened by their splendid achievements.”

The honorable list of those public and private individuals under whose protection the appeal went forth, includes Governor

A. G. Curtin; Hon. Alexander Henry, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia; and many of our best citizens.

### The Great Fair.

This great event in the history of the Home was only second in importance to the National Sanitary Fair held one year before.

The press, clergy, business men, soldiers, sailors and statesmen all lent their best energies to the occasion—whilst the lady managers and their assistants distributed through other States as well as our own, did such wonders in making it the success it afterwards attained, that it is difficult to give them sufficient praise. Indeed, as General Meade properly said in his closing speech, Nov. 4th, 1865—"without the patriotic and tireless labors of the ladies connected with it, it could not have been a success."

Not only did these devoted ladies do all they could here, but some of the lady managers of the Home travelled through this and other States, awakening an interest everywhere for their noble project. Thus it came to pass, that there were tables representing the bounty of the States of Massachusetts, and Vermont, New Jersey and Delaware—while points in our own great Commonwealth were either personally represented or the good work was being done there, in collections and donations, which were afterwards remitted to the Fair fund.

The scene of the Great Fair was the Philadelphia Academy of Music. The beautiful view presented is thus described in the *Public Ledger* of October 24th, 1865.

"Although the work was in some measure incomplete, the

scene was a beautiful one. The parquet has been floored over and the whole extent reaching back to the rear of the stage is filled with tables ranged around the circle and other points convenient of access. The boxes and circles were tastefully dressed with American flags, while a very fine effect was produced by setting the stage with a tent scene.

“The Firemens’ Department located on the south-western part of the stage, added to the display by their finely painted banners and flags—the beautiful banner of the Moyamensing Hose, representing the death of young Fleetwood, attracting especial attention.”

The opening ceremonies on the evening of October 23d, 1865, were very impressive, and made memorable by the presence of an immense and fashionable audience, as well as by distinguished invited guests.

The gay dresses of the ladies, the flowers and banners, the glittering gold lace of the army and navy officers, enlivened by the swelling music of the bands, together with the natural enthusiasm and patriotic thrill inseparable from the occasion—made up a scene seldom witnessed.

On the stage a brilliant group of naval and army officers were collected; among them Major Generals Humphries and Webb, Commodores Stribling and Hull.

At the hour fixed for the opening ceremonies, the Executive Committee came upon the stage, accompanied by Lieutenant General Grant, Major General Meade and the gallant old Admiral Farragut. The Satterlee Hospital Band saluted them with “Hail to the Chief”—but for some minutes nothing could be heard but the welcoming hurrahs of the audience.

On quiet being secured, and after an impressive prayer by

Bishop Simpson, General Meade made a most appropriate address—followed by an original poem by T. Buchanan Read :

### Our Soldiers' Families.

Our soldiers' families! How the fancy roams,  
And finds these patient patriots in their homes ;  
Finds them at quiet firesides—nobly there—  
Waiting beside the hero's empty chair ;  
Beside the chair, perchance, which never more  
Shall know the occupant it knew of yore.

Look in to-night beside that tranquil fire ;  
There sits the mother, there the aged sire ;  
Or there the wife, with matron accents mild,  
Teaching a patriot prayer unto her child ;  
A prayer for him who put his all at stake,  
His all (save honor), for his country's sake :  
There sits the maid with eyes of dreamful light,  
Watching her warrior lover in the fight ;  
Beholds him with a swelling heart of pride,  
With fiery Phil. along the Valley ride ;  
Or Grant, or Thomas, our stern, sturdy George,  
Whose stalwart blows fall thundering like a forge ;  
Or, with his eastward banner, sees him swoop  
Through Georgian fields with Sherman's eagle troop.  
Perchance his lot is on the ocean east ;  
Where Farragut stands steadfast at his mast.  
Perchance with Winslow, poured the shot and shell  
From guns which rung the British pirates' knell ;  
Or at Stone River stemmed the leaden shower,  
Where noble " Rosey " saved the desperate hour.  
Or with that glorious chief to whom was given  
The right to scale above the clouds of heaven,

And bear the starry-rainbow flag on high,  
Back to its native region in the sky.  
Behold our general, on the rocky height,  
A stately statue in a dome of light !  
With all the rebel army put to rout,  
Our fighting Hooker takes a long “ Lookout ! ”  
While through his army shouts on shouts increase,  
Hailing this true commissioner of Peace.

Our soldiers' families ! Some are veiled in gloom ;  
The mourners' crape pervades the solemn room ;  
There, though the tears in sorrowing eyes may start,  
There is no murmur in a patriot heart.  
Though sad the lot, the recompense is plain,  
They hear the falling of the bondsman's chain,  
And hear the song of freedom from the South,  
While shouts of “ Union ” pass from mouth to mouth ;  
In glory's cause the warrior died content,  
With human liberty for monument.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our soldiers' families ! For them have come  
This generous audience, packed from pit to dome.  
For them (would it were worthier), here I lay  
Upon their altar this, my light bouquet ;  
And if perchance their kindly eyes should view  
Among the leaves some random drops of dew,  
Believe them each the poet's loving tear,  
In secret shed beside some patriot's bier.  
Nearly descended from their high estate,  
For them, be sure, the angels watch and wait ;  
Our patriot sires, who all our freedom gave,  
Look down and bless the households of the brave,  
But, grander still, within his dome of domes,  
God smiles His blessing on our Soldiers' Homes !



The Hon. William D. Kelley followed with an eloquent address, in which, speaking of the work accomplished by the people of this city especially, he said :

“ The Government may do much, but the Government could never have accomplished the work of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions.” The speaker then traced the history of the Institution in whose behalf this beautiful scene and circumstance had been created by the people’s own hands, and finally closed with these words :

“ Not long since I met a surgeon who is engaged in preparing medical statistics of the army, and he said that 300,000 men had died in the hospitals. These men had passed beyond our care. There are still thousands of survivors who claim our attention. Let this Fair, therefore, be a success, and let the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home be a magnificent success.”

### **Objects of Interest at the Fair.**

Among the thousands of beautiful objects on sale or exhibition was a collection of ARMS AND TROPHIES which proved one of the most interesting features.

THE FINE ART GALLERY was another beautiful adjunct, containing, as it did, some of the finest paintings of foreign and American artists ever shown.

A superb copy of Boydell’s Illustrations of Shakespeare, presented by Messrs. Rice, Rutter and Company, was bought by the Union League, and presented to Mr. James E. Murdoch, as an acknowledgment of his patriotic services in the cause of the Union.

Two autographs attracted the attention of antiquarians in an unusual degree. The first was a copy of Washington’s Will—

taken from the original MS. on March 8th, 1832, and certified by the Clerk of Fairfax County Court, in which the Will was recorded—probably the only copy known to exist, and particularly valuable, as the original is believed to have been destroyed.

The second was the original dispatch from General Wilson sent to the Secretary of War and General Grant, announcing the capture of Jefferson Davis. It was properly certified, and was presented to the "*Knapsack* table," by Mr. Robert P. King.

Concerts, speech-making by distinguished visitors, and other entertainments gave variety to the splendid scene. Among them was the presentation of two beautiful silver balls, prizes in a base-ball match for the benefit of the Home. These were presented to the Athletic and Hamilton Clubs.

The Great Fair closed, no less brilliantly than it had begun, with the delivery of addresses by Messrs. Gibbons and Dougherty, and an original poem by Mr. F. de Haas Janvier.

### The Widow's Son.

#### A POEM.

BY FRANCIS DE HAAS JANVIER.

"The only son of his mother, and she was a widow."—LUKE vii, 12.

In the green valley of the Cumberland,  
And where the rugged mountain range divides—  
A lofty portal, walled on either hand,  
Through which the silver Susquehanna glides,  
Half hidden, in the shadow of the wood,  
An unpretending, moss-grown cottage stood.

An humble place—yet full of calm content ;  
The home of two, whose loving hearts were one—  
Old age and youth in pure affection blent ;  
A widowed mother, and an only son ;  
So the green ivy clasps the tottering wall,  
Each holding each, till both together fall !

She lived for him, and still, at night and morn,  
Committed him, in secret, to her God ;  
His life was hers—his aim to pluck each thorn  
Which lay before her, in the path they trod ;  
His highest hope, her sorrows to beguile ;  
And his supreme reward his mother's smile.

Thus undisturbed, the peaceful days went by,  
And all around gave promise of repose ;  
When slowly, in the sunny Southern sky,  
An angry cloud, with gathering blackness rose—  
The elements, in strange commotion stirred,  
And muttering thunders in the air were heard !

It came apace—the storm of civil war—  
And the bright heavens with darkness were o'ercast ;  
From hill to hill, the bale-fires blazed afar,  
And, through the vales, shrieked the shrill bugle blast ;  
While, from the North, rushed Freedom's loyal sons,  
In prompt response to Sumter's signal guns !

No patriot paused—from every dwelling then,  
Rose the stern chorus of the battle-cry ;  
The dusty highway teemed with armed men,  
Resolved to conquer, and content to die !  
And with that dauntless host was numbered one,  
Known from his childhood as “ The Widow's Son.”

Dark was the day, when sad, but self-possessed,  
He left his mother at the cottage door ;  
In tears, she pressed him to her aching breast,  
With trembling lips she blessed him o'er and o'er !  
Then sweetly smiling to disguise her woe,  
Blessed him again—and calmly bade him go.

She gazed upon his form, as through the wood—  
Ne'er looking back—he hurriedly withdrew  
And lingering at the open doorway stood,  
Long after he had vanished from her view ;  
And still, with feeble step, she came each day,  
To watch the path by which he passed away.

But even then, she wished not his return,  
For she had yielded him at Duty's shrine ;  
And though the summons had seemed almost stern,  
She had not faltered and did not repine,  
She deemed him now still dearer than before,  
And yet she loved her suffering country more.

The months wore on—the changing seasons passed,  
And, faithful to his trust, he wearied not ;  
But through the burning heat and freezing blast,  
Met, with a cheerful zeal, his toilsome lot—  
A patriot soldier, whose heroic heart  
Of Freedom's mighty bulwark formed a part.

'Twas in the autumn, and the sinking sun  
Tipped the green hill-tops with a golden glow ;  
Where the bright waves of the Antietam run,  
Through blooming banks, to fertile fields below ;  
Where nature has bestowed, with lavish hand,  
Her richest gifts to gladden Maryland.

The sky was cloudless, and the air serene ;  
The distance faded in the closing light—  
When, from above, to sanctify the scene,  
The saintly stars came beaming through the night ,  
But, in the darkness, on the earth beneath,  
Stalked bloody War, and by his side was Death !

For, in that valley, stretching far away,  
Beyond the margin of the crystal flood,  
Rebellion's recreant host, in fierce array,  
Led by the minions of foul treason, stood ;  
While to the verge of the opposing bank,  
The patriot army rested, rank on rank.

The morning dawned—but scarcely dawned before  
The din of battle on the silence broke ;  
Hurled, in the blazing cannon's deafening roar,  
Down the dim vale, through clouds of sulphurous smoke—  
Then swept the patriot squadrons through the tide,  
And deadly conflict raged on every side.

The flaming lines fought sternly—hand to hand ;  
The stifling air was rent with shot and shell,  
The rattling musket, and the clashing brand,  
The clanging trumpet, and the piercing yell ;  
While frantic steeds rushed, riderless, away,  
And crushed the dead and dying as they lay.

Great was the slaughter—o'er the crimson field,  
From heaps of carnage, rose expiring groans—  
When suddenly above the combat pealed  
The trump of victory, in exultant tones,  
As Treason's banner, with its bloody bars,  
Fell to the dust, before the Stripes and Stars !



The strife was ended, and the battle won ;  
The troubled air grew tranquil, as before ;  
And, in the effulgence of the setting sun,  
The verdant hills were beautiful once more :  
But thousands who had hailed that opening morn  
Were ghastly, broken, bleeding, and forlorn.

'Twas on that night, and in a shattered wood,  
Torn in the fight, and open to the sky ;  
With mangled frame, and faint from loss of blood,  
A youthful soldier had laid down to die—  
Though many a friendly form was round him strewn,  
He rested there, in silence—and alone.

It was "The Widow's Son"—with upturned face,  
His eyes were fixed upon the starry dome ;  
But painful consciousness had given place  
To a sweet vision of his happy home ;  
His mother met him at the open door—  
She clasped him in her loving arms once more !

The fancy fled—he turned his gaze below,  
And in the distance, through the shade, descried  
One, with a flaming torch, pass to and fro,  
Who, drawing near, came quickly to his side,  
And kneeling by him, on the bloody ground,  
Essayed, with care, to stanch each streaming wound.

He seemed a stranger ; and, in mute surprise,  
The soldier scanned his kindly features o'er ;  
No martial badge adorned his simple guise ;  
No glittering weapon at his side he wore—  
But, in the sacred bond of sympathy,  
A BROTHER, and a CHRISTIAN, claimed to be.

A Christian Brother—of that noble band  
Who practice what the blessed Saviour taught—  
Whose labors are the glory of our land ;  
Whose great commission from high heaven was brought,  
When o'er the silent plains of Bethlehem rang  
The blissful anthem which the angels sang.

He brought the sufferer from the dreary wood,  
And through the field, amid the prostrate dead,  
Down to the roadside, where a cottage stood,  
And found him there a shelter and a bed ;  
Then smoothed his throbbing brow and tangled hair,  
And watched him with a father's tender care.

But all in vain—for with the waning night  
His breath grew shorter, and his strength failed fast,  
Till, in the early morning's misty light,  
The hour approached which was to be the last ;  
And, with a quivering lip and tearful eye,  
The faithful stranger told him he must die.

Then, drawing still more closely to his side,  
Spoke of the Saviour's love to fallen men ;  
Of Him who, sinless, for the sinful died,  
Yet lives, that those who die may live again ;  
And falling on his knees, in earnest prayer,  
He bore him to the Cross and left him there.

That prayer prevailed—the soldier raised his eyes,  
And softly whispered, “ Lord, remember me ! ”—  
When lo ! as from the gates of Paradise,  
He seemed an angel in the gloom to see ;  
A heavenly glory o'er his features spread,  
He breathed his mother's name—and he was dead !

'Twas on that night—the widow sat alone,  
Within her little cottage in the vale ;  
Her thin white hair had still more silvery grown,  
Her brow more furrowed and her cheek more pale ;  
Some strong presentiment had banished sleep,  
And held her thus a weary watch to keep.

The hours went on—she noted not their flight ;  
She rose, and slowly tottered to the door ;  
And, in the rising moon's uncertain light,  
Gazed down the path she oft had watched before :  
She saw a figure—through the wood it pressed,  
And her lost son was folded on her breast !

The day appeared—its brightening glory gleamed  
Down the dark mountain, 'mid the vapory air,  
And through the little cottage window streamed ;  
But all was silent—only death was there.  
For, ere that morning cast its beams abroad,  
The widow, with her son, had gone to God.

The Lady Managers of the Great Fair and their numerous assistants had accomplished wonders, and their hearts doubtless swelled with deserved pride and gratification. It had yielded to the Home \$107,166.06 over all expenses. Twenty-two thousand dollars were taken in at the door alone.

We cannot better close this account of this pleasant episode in the history of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, than by giving a portion of the report made January, 1867—by the Managers of that Institution. It reads :

“ The history of the great fair held at the Academy of Music in the fall of 1865 is well known as forming part of the history of eventful times ; but it is due to the efforts of the ladies who

projected and achieved this enterprise that some of the particulars should be placed on record.

“The various departments of the fair were presided over and assisted by the following ladies :

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. D. Haddock, Jr., | Mrs. E. A. Souder, |
| “ R. P. King,         | “ C. Magarge,      |
| “ E. S. Hall,         | “ I. Maule,        |
| “ C. S. Ogden,        | “ H. P. Taylor,    |
| “ Dr. E. Wallace,     | “ Capt. Horner,    |
| “ S. C. Perkins,      | “ M. A. Percival,  |
| “ H. E. Townsend,     | “ W. Gillespie,    |
| “ H. Haddock,         | “ C. Evans,        |
| “ C. Gibbons,         | “ S. Jones,        |
| “ S. P. Godwin,       | “ M. M. Selfridge, |
| “ Jas. C. Hand,       | “ M. F. Hyde,      |
| “ J. Carrow,          | “ C. A. Howard,    |
| “ W. S. Boyd,         | “ McClees,         |
| “ Pennock,            | “ Fitzgerald,      |
| “ Davids,             | “ Landis,          |
| “ C. B. Andress,      | “ Wilson,          |
| “ W. C. Vinyard,      | Miss R. Wetherill, |
| “ Clarkson,           | “ F. Wadleigh,     |
| “ Hallowell,          | “ C. S. Field,     |
| “ A. T. Goodman,      | “ Bessie King,     |
| “ H. C. Blair,        | “ May Hardie,      |
| “ J. G. Hardie,       | “ Martha Kelley.”  |

Many other ladies were actively at work, who cheerfully

rendered their time, labor, and gifts in the direction of this undertaking. Many gentlemen were found as able assistants and wise counsellors. To all these devoted friends this special acknowledgment is gratefully made, for the page is too narrow to set down in order a tithe of their kindness.

One of the most satisfactory features of this Fair, and one to be much commended in all such undertakings, was the introduction of the Banking system in the conduct of the receipts. This excellent and practical idea was the suggestion of Secretary Hall, who lent his experience to the great advantage of the finances of the Fair.

There was no needless and confused "running around for change." Counterfeit money was guarded against; as the Cashier was always at hand to examine and report as to the genuineness of bills or coin. And the ladies were thereby relieved of all the care and anxiety of having large sums of money to look after. In fact, it proved a valuable business measure, which told in the result.

The public's interest in the prosperity of the Home, did not end with the Fair. There was never, perhaps, a more popular charity. An appeal to the public was never left unanswered. It would, of course, be invidious to instance some contributions whilst the *full* list was not given; yet we may be permitted to select a few items, at random, from the Treasurer's books; for instance, among the contributions: "From S. T. Krebler, for Society of Schwenckfelders, \$210.25, and later, \$105." Church organizations, musical and scientific associations, theatrical managers, all entered into the good work.

The following correspondence speaks for itself:



277 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA,  
January 29th, 1866.

To MR. J. S. CLARKE, Walnut Street Theatre.

MY DEAR SIR: In view of the effort which the managers of the Soldiers' Home of the city of Philadelphia are making to increase their fund for providing for the soldiers and sailors who have been disabled in our country's service, we would respectfully solicit your coöperation in the matter, and would be happy to receive the benefit of a Matinee at the Walnut Street Theatre, if agreeable to you, and at your convenience.

Very respectfully yours,  
(Signed) ELLERSLIE WALLACE,  
President Soldiers' Home.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE, PHILADELPHIA,  
January 30th, 1866.

To DR. ELLERSLIE WALLACE, President Soldiers' Home, etc.

MY DEAR SIR: In reply to your favor of yesterday I beg to say that I cheerfully comply with your request, and most respectfully proffer the use of the Walnut Street Theatre, and my professional services, for an afternoon performance, on Saturday, February 10th.

Very respectfully yours,  
J. S. CLARKE.

This benefit brought in \$300.47, after deducting the mere expenses of gas, carpenters, and advertisements; the great actor J. S. Clarke and his entire company giving their services gratuitously.

Science was no less ready to lend its services, and Professor Rogers, of the University of Pennsylvania, was the happy means of bringing into the Treasurer's coffers over \$785, through his interesting lectures upon the "World we Live in," delivered at the Academy of Music.

The letter of the President of the Soldiers' Home to Professor Rogers sets forth so well what was felt by every one at the time, that we cannot do better than give it here, as well as the learned professor's answer.

227 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA,

February 5th, 1866.

TO DR. ROBERT E. ROGERS, Professor of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania.

DEAR SIR: A number of ladies and gentlemen, who listened with great pleasure and interest to the lecture delivered by you at the Academy of Music, on the 17th ult., in aid of the "Soldiers' and Sailors' Home" of our city, have expressed a very earnest wish and hope that you would give another address, in continuation of the subjects brought forward by you on that occasion.

The topics introduced by you are of so attractive a nature, and of such educational interest, and your illustrations so masterly and elegant, that we do most earnestly desire a repetition of that most agreeable evening's entertainment.

Very respectfully yours,

ELLERSLIE WALLACE,

President "Soldiers' Home."

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA,

February 6th, 1866.

TO DR. ELLERSLIE WALLACE, President Soldiers' Home, etc.

DEAR SIR: Your complimentary note of yesterday is received. Permit me to say that it has given me great gratification to learn that the lecture which I had the pleasure of delivering on the 17th ult., for the benefit of the "Soldiers' Home," has been acceptable. In addition to the satisfaction which I feel in contributing my small share to the good cause, is the pleasure which I had in being greeted by so large an auditory as that assembled on the above occasion to witness the familiar exposition of some of Nature's truths. It will give me pleasure to continue the subject, "A Glance at the World we Live in," on the evening of Monday, February 19th.

Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT E. ROGERS.

From the greatest to the smallest, all were interested in this noble work.

We find this entry, touching in its brevity, "February 25th, 1862, Laura Mitchell, two and a half years old, her father in the army, \$1.

"October 21st, 1863, Miss Anita Ward, fair, \$85.20."

The notice of this first successful effort of a little child to *earn* money for the sick and wounded soldiers was quite extended. The *Press*, among other newspapers, has the following :

#### WHAT A LITTLE GIRL CAN DO.

"Miss Anita F. M. Ward, the little daughter of Samuel L. Ward, Esq., on Monday paid over to Miss Ross, eighty-five

dollars and twenty-two cents for the Soldiers' Home, the proceeds of a Fair given at her father's residence, corner of Fifteenth and Master Streets."

The idea of furnishing aid to this institution was, we understand, one originating with the little lady, and prompted entirely by her patriotism, without suggestion from older persons. It was an example which was subsequently followed by many other children.

A few other entries may be introduced to show how diversified were the sources of this charitable influx :

"January 9th, 1864, little Mammie Paul, \$7."

"April 4th, 1864, boy fourteen years old, \$5."

"December 3d, 1864, U. S. Sanitary Commission, \$500."

"December 3d, 1864, State appropriation (on account), \$3750."

"April 7th, 1865, Philadelphia and Reading Railroad (tolls) donated, \$129.37."

"April 18th, 1865, State appropriation for 1864, fourth payment, \$1250."

"April 18th, R. G. Chase, Rector, collection in aid of the Soldiers' Home of Philadelphia, contributed by the congregation of the Church of St. Matthias, as a thank offering for the recent successes before Richmond, and the rout of the army of Northern Virginia, \$65.46."

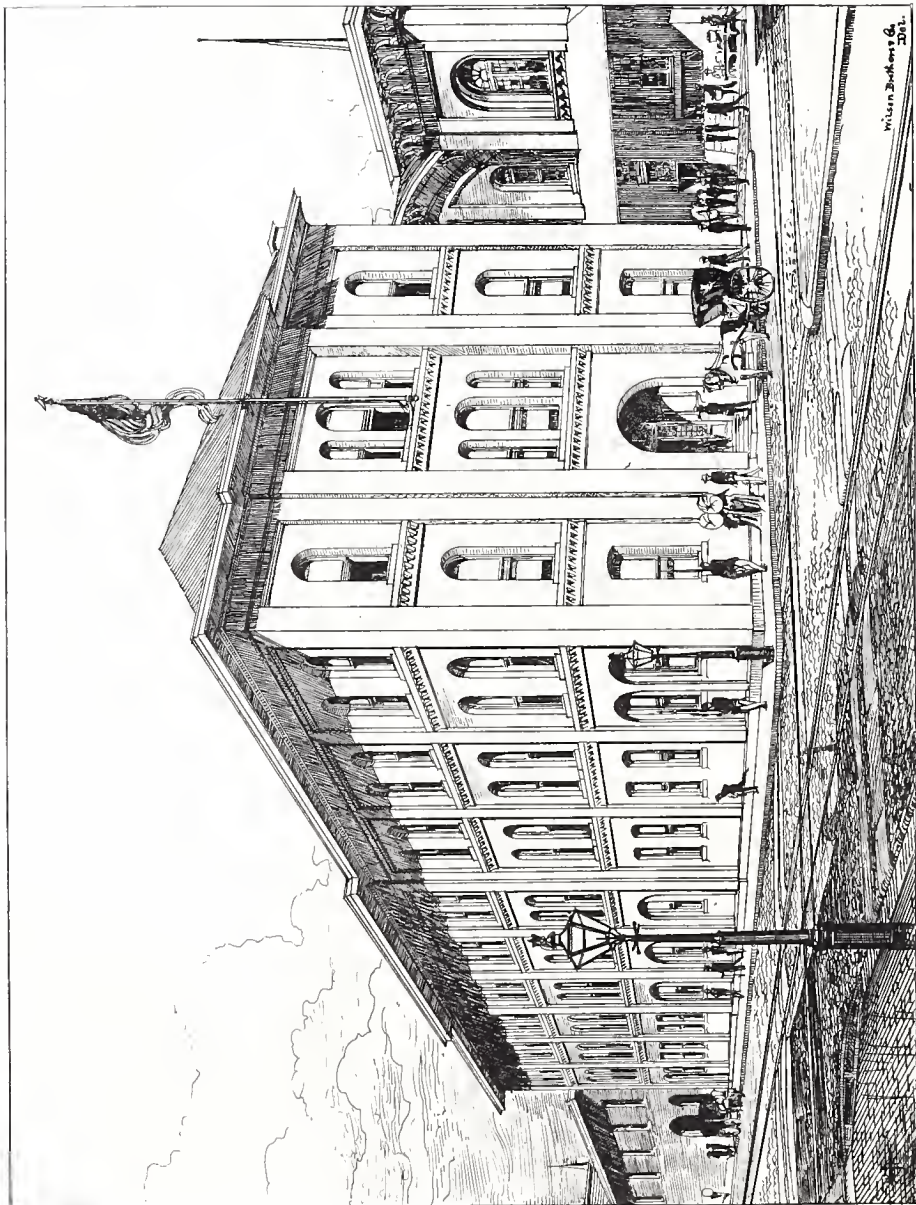
"May 4th, 1865, Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, tolls donated, \$17.34."

"July 1st, 1865, Fair, Katie Doane, Ella Doane, Linda Town, Horace W. Allison, \$13.75."

"Considerable amounts were also received from individuals, as well as ladies' aid societies, medical and musical bodies, loyal leagues, fairs, etc., etc., held in neighboring towns or cities, as in







F. GUTEKUNST.

SOLDIERS' HOME,  
FILBERT AND SIXTEENTH STREETS,  
PHILADELPHIA.

W. H. B. & Co.  
1871.

PHOTOTYPE.

Camden and Moorestown, N. J.; Byberry, West Chester, Pa.; etc., etc.; even extending as far as Brattleboro, Vt., where a fair was held which contributed \$81 (received through Mrs. Anna E. Brown)."

Among the personal legacies we may instance :

"October 25th, 1865, pay of the late Adolph Rosengarten, Major of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers (Anderson Cavalry), \$217.70."

"January 22d, 1876, legacy of Mrs. Mary Brown, \$15,000."

"March 2d, 1878, Walter Allison (Chapin estate), \$1805."

"June 25th, 1878, estate Ann Walker, \$1726.29 (\$1139.81 had already been paid on this estate)."

And so we might continue, but we have sufficient extracts here from the Treasurer's books to show how universally the merits of the Soldiers' Home were appreciated, and how popular and general its support. Partaking of its own broad views in the dispensation of this money, the supporters of the Home were of all sects, all classes, and professions.

### **The Home at Sixteenth and Filbert Streets.**

Gratifying as was the result of the fair, and other contingent helps, the sum obtained was still insufficient for the *erection* and *endowment* of the institution as proposed, and as the application for admission and the demands on the Home increased far beyond its capacity to meet, the Managers decided finally to make application to the State for the use of a new building situated at the corner of 16th and Filbert sts., known as the State Arsenal. It was eminently fitted for the purpose proposed. It was handsomely and well constructed of pressed brick, three stories in height, well arranged and ventilated. Its dimensions were 183

feet on Filbert street, and, with the newly added workshop, some 104 feet on 16th street.

A ground floor plan of this building is here given.

The second floor was almost exclusively used for sleeping accommodations. The third story, equally spacious, was divided into a sleeping and hospital ward, entered from opposite ends by stairways. Here, too, was a "dispensary," an "operating room," and apartments for special cases.

The whole building was airy and well lighted, and possessed at all necessary points, spacious baths, wash-rooms, and other conveniences.

The Legislature, as well as the Governor, listened with interest to the application of the Board of Managers, and placed this fine property at their disposal without delay, rent free.

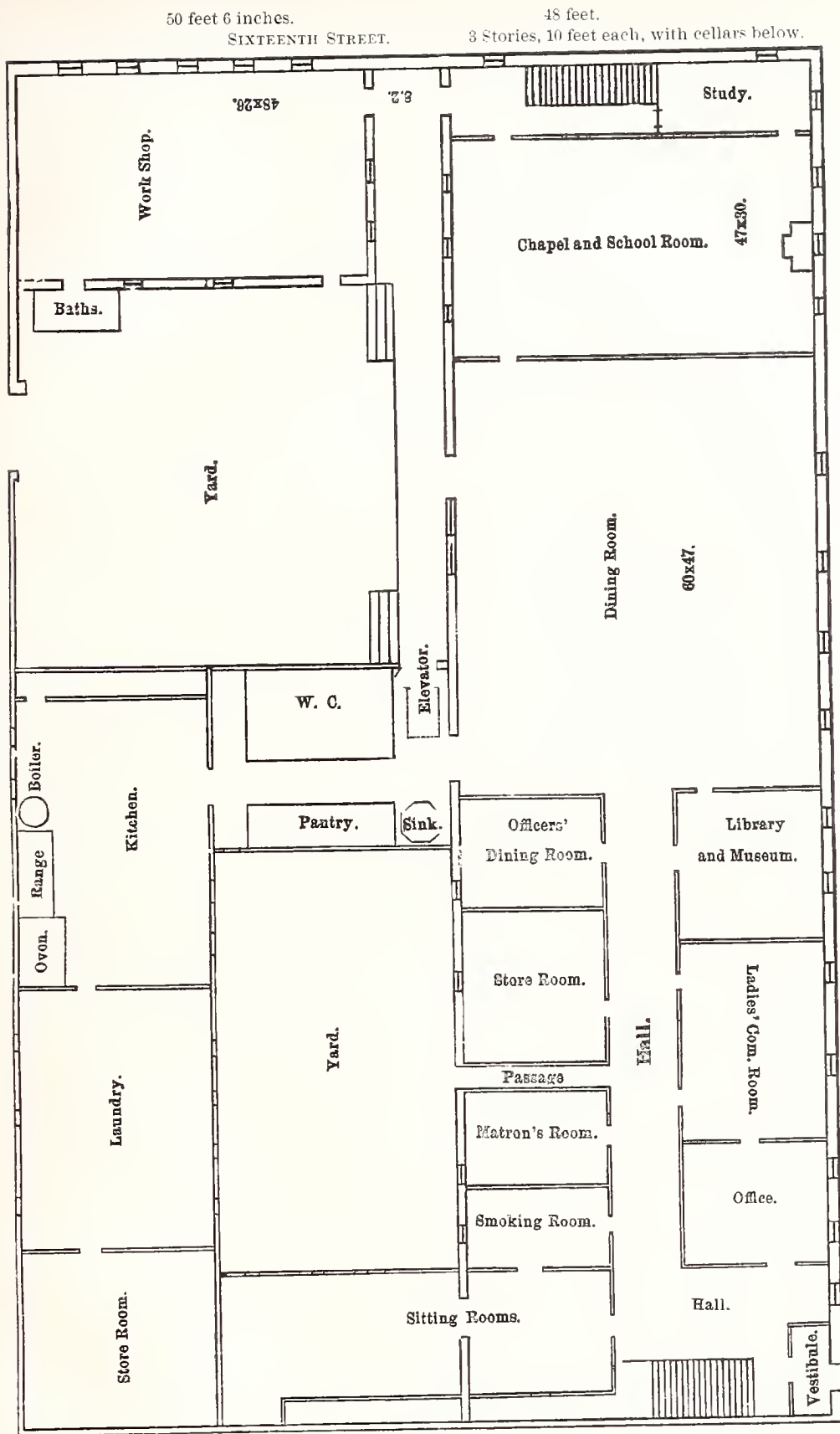
Another patriotic and kindly act was the appropriation of \$5000, made for the year 1864, repeated in 1865, and continued for the year 1866.

The building was ready for occupancy April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866.

The following extracts from the Report of the Managers of the Soldiers' Home, tendered some nine months later, show in detail the workings of the institution in its new location :

"It scarcely will be deemed out of place to present here, as briefly as possible, the mode of conducting the affairs of the Home, and a general sketch of the results obtained, since erroneous impressions of the good done, and unreasonable expectations of what ought to be done, are met with occasionally. The beneficence established by your generous contributions, and committed by chartered trust to a Board of Managers in conjunction with a Committee of Lady Visitors, is conducted by your representatives *in person*, not by deputy. The welfare of

JONES STREET.



183 feet on FILBERT STREET.

First story 12 feet to ceiling.

Second story 16 feet to ceiling.

Third story 14 feet to ceiling.

the inmates is *made* their daily business ; this is actually so *performed*. To this end the Ladies' Committee meet weekly, and delegates of their number make daily visits for the management of the general domestic affairs of the house, and especially of the hospital, library, chapel, etc. The Matron thus has constant advisers in all housekeeping administrations, and the Board of Managers able and efficient coadjutors. The Executive Committee of the Board, also meet weekly to receive the reports of the Steward, Surgeon, etc., to audit and discharge bills of supplies, and to consult on questions of order and policy. Delegates from this Committee also visit the Home every evening from eight to ten o'clock. To these are referred all candidates for admission and discharge, and all reports touching the good order, propriety, and reputation of the establishment.

“The Steward, in all the intervals of these daily sessions, holds subordinate powers of admission and discharge, so that no worthy applicant with proper credentials need be unnecessarily detained, and no disorderly inmate can long violate the peace of the Home. Such exercise of power by the Steward, under established rule, is only temporary ; every case that occurs, whether of order or disorder, whether it adds to the number of inmates, or detracts from the well-being of any individual, is separately considered in Committee, and acted on with patience and impartiality.

“As there is no military discipline, the soldier's honor is the main guarantee of good order in and about the house ; the only punishment is dishonorable discharge. This painful necessity is used sparingly, and only after repeated monitions and appeals to offenders to amend their ways. On the whole, the system works well ; a large population, or rather family, lives in peace



together; but the vicious and incorrigible are not allowed to destroy the general comfort.

“The Executive Committee have in charge complete books of accounts for all the expenditures, for the amount of which they draw on the Treasurer. They see that there is kept a daily record of all items of business or interest, and a full registry of the inmates, each of whom on entering has a descriptive list taken, covering the particulars of his enlistment, discharge from service, disability, residence, pension, family, etc., and the names of two friends or acquaintances who can be addressed in case of necessity. This list contains his consent to the established rules and regulations, given under his own hand. If the applicant should be in ordinary health, he is furnished with the number of his bed and his place at table; if sick or requiring surgical care, a ticket is made out addressed to the Surgeon, which is reported upon by that officer, who enters the patient's name upon his books. In each case, when professional attendance ceases, a return of discharge from hospital is required.

“It can be said truly that no worthy applicant has been refused admission to the Home, nor is there anything arbitrary or narrow in the manner of dispensing its benefits. No State boundaries, no distinctions of color or nation are recognized. The proper subjects for the benefits of this institution are described thus: ‘Such persons who, while in the service of the United States, have been disabled through wounds or sickness, and are thereby unable to perform the ordinary avocations of life.’

“‘Service of the United States and disability,’ therefore, are closely scrutinized, and the evidence of honorable discharge by the Government is required to guard against imposition. Continuance of the disability from time to time must be looked

after. To accomplish these objects more perfectly, committees of inspection are appointed, statedly to muster and examine the inmates, and to discharge such as appear to be able to earn their own living, or whose admittance by the Executive Committee is no longer warrantable at the time of inspection. One such commission was appointed, which acted in October last on the business of the first six months after removal; one stands ordered to act in April next.

“The reports annexed will show in detail the workings of the several departments. The school has become widely and favorably known among the soldiers of all the loyal States. Many wounded men seek admission in order to avail themselves of a course of instruction.

“For the hospital, a high reputation has been earned among the profession and throughout the community. Under the able and attentive conduct of Dr. McArthur, who has been kindly assisted in consultation by the most eminent talent of the city, many of the most difficult operations in surgery have been performed with remarkable success. Filled at all times as the ward has been with lingering chronic cases, the ratio of deaths has been *surprisingly low*; it may be added that in all the wards of the Home, no case of cholera occurred, and none of contagious disease.

“The Steward’s report gives the number of inmates at this date as 197. The sleeping accommodations of the house are:

|                          |   |   |   |   |       |       |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|-------|
| Ward A (2d story),       | . | . | . | . | 120   | beds. |
| Ward B (3d story),       | . | . | . | . | 48    | “     |
| Hospital ward (3d story) | . | . | . | . | 45    | “     |
|                          |   |   |   |   | <hr/> |       |
|                          |   |   |   |   | 213   | “     |

“The average cost of maintenance for six months, including board, school and hospital expenses, and paid labor is, per man, forty-five cents daily ; or if all put to the account of provisions, fifteen cents per meal.

“And in the high prices of all commodities, it is clear that this low rate for a full, wholesome meal could not have been secured but for the unvarying kindness and favor shown the Home—for the soldier’s sake—by all classes of merchants and dealers.

“In providing for the physical requirements of the inmates of the Soldiers’ Home, their spiritual wants have not been neglected. Many of the clergymen of the city have visited the men, and, when their duties would permit, have conducted divine worship,—all which services are gratefully remembered.

“At an early period, the Rev. Edward A. Foggo, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, commenced his regular labors in the true spirit of Christian love, and established stated services once on each Sunday, and once during the week. His faithful work and earnest teachings were emulated by his assistant, the Rev. Thos. Pool Hutchinson, who subsequently became his successor. This gentleman has faithfully and efficiently performed his duties for two years, almost without intermission, adorning his profession with a modest courtesy. To both of these true missionaries the warmest obligations are due.

“For the past year Miss Elizabeth N. Biddle has been untiring in her efforts to advance the moral and spiritual welfare of the soldiers of the Home. Her Bible class has been regularly held with the most promising results. The religious teachings and refined manners of this lady have spread a happy influence among the men, while her ready thought and quick intelligence have been sought by the Managers, when shaping plans for

the happiness and advancement of those placed under their care.

“After a review of the facts herein presented, should the question be asked ‘How is it that so many who have been soldiers *apparently*—some of them wounded *certainly*—are to be found in our streets soliciting aid or exercising a calling akin to vagrancy?’ the answer is at hand.

“Many will not accept the comforts provided and offered, because they prefer a roving life, and will not submit to the orderly regulations required; for a like reason, some who have been inmates have voluntarily sought discharge, or have quitted without notice.

“Experience proves that many have no evidence of *honorable* military service or discharge therefrom.

“Many have been discharged from this and other Homes on account of repeated misdemeanors—not to say crimes; for infractions of order and morality, or because they were considered capable of earning their own living, or were imposing on benefits designed only for the disabled.

“This portion of the subject can be touched upon merely; the whole is submitted most respectfully to your candid consideration.”

### **Report of John R. Baker.**

#### EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME:

Immediately after the removal of the Home to its present location, warm hearts and willing hands applied themselves to the work of reducing to systematic order what hitherto had been in a great degree experimental. It was a noble undertaking to

render this asylum—the first established one in the country for the disabled volunteer—all it was designed to be; a true Home of occupation, thought, and feeling, as well as a repose for shattered frames. Much experience had already been gathered and turned to account in the too narrow limits of the Race street building; much had to be laid up, undeveloped for want of space for its proper exercise; but vastly more was needed, only to be picked up bit by bit, before the institution could rightly fill out its proportions and the hopes entertained.

A roomy building was in possession, good order established, and an ever-watchful care exerted for the preservation of health, comfort, and a moral and religious condition. It was not enough to provide chapel, library, and rooms for reading and conversation, however valuable these might be in themselves; there was plainly too much *unemployed* time among the inmates, whom disabilities and broken health deterred from the exercise of former trades and avocations. It was in design to teach new trades and light work of a profitable sort, to such as were willing and able to learn, yet no part of the building, as then divided, could well be allotted to work-shops. But it was practicable to provide schools and school-rooms, and should it be found possible hereafter to provide for training in handicraft, a fair share of time and opportunity could and would be allowed to the industrious workmen for mental culture. To make out of our crippled defenders more intelligent and useful members of society, was the high aim of these thoughts and efforts.

It was remarked during the war that nearly all loyal American soldiers could read and write. Some had been well educated, very many partially so, while some few seemed to have had no advantages whatever in this respect. This state of things was before the Managers in working out the educational scheme.



Seareely was the new Home in running order when Miss Mary Whelen, with a living energy, acted out the wishes of the Board and her own liberal thoughts, to the blessing of a school. She nobly volunteered to become the teacher, and right nobly does she continue to perform her self-imposed duties. Highly educated, systematic and gentle, while firm, she has brought rare abilities and experience to the task. Her school prospered.

Thrice a week, in the chapel, Miss Whelen punctually met her school, where she labored to impart to classes of willing and respectful pupils the blessings of education, in the rudiments and through the higher branches.

Following out the thought of adapting instruction and future occupation to the disabilities under care, the Managers soon saw that a class could be made up for special training as telegraphers, accountants, book-keepers, and writers; this work was well adapted to men "shorn of their fair proportions," and these accomplishments were in remunerative demand.

Accordingly, in the month of July last, an agreement was entered into with Mr. Joseph H. Lawrence, himself a volunteer soldier and a graduate of Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, to instruct a class of (say) twenty pupils, to be clerks and operators. An outer building was conveniently fitted up with the fixtures and apparatus required, including five instruments (four sounders, one recorder), and a telegraphic circuit across the building. The members of the new class applied themselves zealously to secure the advantages offered, and the click of the operators could be heard at all times in self-practice or in communication with one another.

The sessions of the school were now established on the morning and afternoon of each day, Mr. Lawrence readily giving his

assistance in Miss Whelen's school, where his industry, patience, and capability were so fully evinced that the engagement made for a special course expanded into a yearly agreement to take charge of the general duties of the schools, which, with the addition of a new one for the colored inmates, were committed to the care of one of the Executive Committee, who was made Supervisor.

Thus much for the *history* of this effort at improvement. Occupation has been secured in a profitable direction, not only during the stated sessions, but to a great extent in the intervals, and up to the hour for retiring at night. It is true that all in the Home do not avail themselves of the privileges urged upon their acceptance; infirmity, disinclination for mental effort, advanced years, prejudice,—these, singly or combined, hold back too large a number. But much has been gained within a year; a desire for learning that is manifested in ways outside of prescribed studies, as reading, debate, elocution, and music together with a higher tone of morals and a more orderly deportment.

#### MAINTENANCE OF THE SCHOOLS.

As there was no special fund for the purposes of education, the expenses attending the plan established had to be charged to the general account:

Cost of apparatus, fixtures, salary, etc., . . . \$834 94

Towards the close of last year, however, the sum of \$1000 (invested in City six per cent. loan) was devoted to the education of the inmates of this Home, through the kindness of Mrs. E. W. Hutter and Misses Sager and Claghorn, who labored assiduously at the fair held in Concert Hall, in 1862, to provide means to

purchase a library for the use of the soldiers; but the Home having been provided with a library of some seven thousand volumes, these ladies directed this benevolence towards the schools.

#### NUMBER OF PUPILS.

The whole number of pupils who *at any time* have attended the schools is sixty. Of these, fifty-three are white, seven colored.

The number now in attendance is forty-three. Of these

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Have lost right arm, . . . . .  | 5     |
| “ lost left arm, . . . . .      | 3     |
| “ disability of arm, . . . . .  | 6     |
| “ lost one leg, . . . . .       | 20    |
| “ other wounds, etc., . . . . . | 9     |
|                                 | <hr/> |
|                                 | 43    |

#### COURSE OF STUDY AND PROGRESS THEREIN.

The branches taught are Telegraphing, Book-keeping, Penmanship, Arithmetic (mental and written), Spelling, Reading, Grammar, Geography, Composition, Mental Philosophy, etc.

The general progress is good, although proper allowance should be made in fixing a standard of improvement; this should be modified by considerations of loss of early opportunities, wounds, age, feeble health, the soldiers' hardships, etc. During the short period of the schools four pupils have obtained situations.

One telegraphic operator.

Three book-keepers and writers.

While several more will soon give token of their ability to earn their own living.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. BAKER,  
Supervisor.

### **The Hospital Department.**

Of the number of patients treated in the hospital, there can be no certain summary obtained. There were hundreds of "casual" patients of which no record was kept, and the register of the "regular" hospital cases is far from complete. So far as can be gathered from the Hospital Register, the NUMBER OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL, from November 24th, 1864, to May 21st, 1872, was 833.

DIED during same period 113.

Of the 720 surviving patients, all were either cured or improved.

The following report of Dr. J. A. McArthur, Surgeon of the Home, for the single year ending January 31st, 1866, however, may be considered a fair criterion of the character of the work done by the hospital.

### **Surgeon's Report.**

PHILADELPHIA, February 19th, 1867.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME IN THE  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to present the following report of the Hospital Department, for the year ending January 31st, 1866.

Under treatment during the year, 202. This does not include such “ casual ” patients as have received treatment from time to time, and of whom I have kept no record, but of those only who have either occupied beds in the hospital ward, or have reported to me frequently for treatment.

The following is a list of the diseases treated :

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Phthisis pulmonalis,   | 26 |
| Pleurisy,              | 2  |
| Pneumonia,             | 3  |
| Bronchitis,            | 1  |
| Asthma,                | 2  |
| Chronic laryngitis,    | 1  |
| Catarrh,               | 4  |
| Scrofula,              | 4  |
| Strumous abscess,      | 4  |
| Hemiplegia,            | 2  |
| Paralysis,             | 2  |
| Paralysis of bladder,  | 1  |
| Ophthalmia,            | 1  |
| Amaurosis,             | 3  |
| Blindness from wounds, | 2  |
| Conjunctivitis,        | 5  |
| Opacity of cornea,     | 2  |
| Ulceration of cornea,  | 1  |
| Secondary syphilis,    | 4  |
| Tertiary syphilis,     | 5  |
| Gonorrhœa,             | 1  |
| Intermittent fever,    | 14 |
| Remittent fever,       | 4  |



|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Rheumatism, . . . . .                                  | 14 |
| Sciatica, . . . . .                                    | 1  |
| Gunshot wounds penetrating cavity of thorax, . . . . . | 5  |
| “ “ “ “ pelvis, . . . . .                              | 2  |
| “ “ of shoulder-joint, . . . . .                       | 4  |
| “ “ of shoulder (flesh), . . . . .                     | 2  |
| “ “ of ankle-joint, . . . . .                          | 1  |
| “ “ of arm, . . . . .                                  | 6  |
| “ “ of thigh, . . . . .                                | 6  |
| “ “ of leg, . . . . .                                  | 7  |
| “ “ of abdominal wall (flesh), . . . . .               | 2  |
| “ “ of elbow-joint, . . . . .                          | 1  |
| “ “ of groin, . . . . .                                | 1  |
| “ “ of back, . . . . .                                 | 4  |
| “ “ of inferior maxilla, . . . . .                     | 1  |
| “ “ of neck, . . . . .                                 | 1  |
| Lacerated wound of hand, . . . . .                     | 1  |
| Scalp wound, . . . . .                                 | 1  |
| Fracture of femur, . . . . .                           | 1  |
| Necrosis of femur, . . . . .                           | 3  |
| Necrosis of tibia, . . . . .                           | 1  |
| Anchylosis of elbow-joint, . . . . .                   | 1  |
| Ulcer of leg, . . . . .                                | 7  |
| Ulcer of stump, . . . . .                              | 7  |
| Carbuncle, . . . . .                                   | 1  |
| Frosted fingers, . . . . .                             | 1  |
| Talipes equinus, . . . . .                             | 1  |
| Ulceration of pharynx, . . . . .                       | 1  |
| Chronic gastritis, . . . . .                           | 3  |
| Dysentery, . . . . .                                   | 1  |

|                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Chronic diarrhœa, . . . . .                      | 10 |
| Cirrhosis of liver, . . . . .                    | 2  |
| Mania, . . . . .                                 | 1  |
| Mania-a-potu, . . . . .                          | 2  |
| Chronic alcoholism, . . . . .                    | 1  |
| Scrotal hernia, . . . . .                        | 3  |
| Inguinal hernia, . . . . .                       | 3  |
| Deafness, . . . . .                              | 1  |
| Deafness from perforation of tympanum, . . . . . | 1  |
| Heart disease, . . . . .                         | 3  |
| Erysipelas, . . . . .                            | 2  |
| Epilepsy, . . . . .                              | 1  |
| Albuminuria, . . . . .                           | 1  |
| Hæmorrhoids, . . . . .                           | 1  |
| Masturbation, . . . . .                          | 2  |
| Debility, . . . . .                              | 11 |
| Hydrocele, . . . . .                             | 2  |
| Fistula in ano, . . . . .                        | 2  |

The following operations have been performed during the year :

|                                                |   |
|------------------------------------------------|---|
| Amputation of shoulder-joint, . . . . .        | 3 |
| “ of thigh, . . . . .                          | 2 |
| “ of leg, . . . . .                            | 9 |
| “ of fingers, . . . . .                        | 1 |
| “ of all the toes, . . . . .                   | 1 |
| “ of thumb, . . . . .                          | 1 |
| Removal of necrosed bone from tibia, . . . . . | 1 |
| Fistula in ano, . . . . .                      | 2 |

|                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---|
| Excision of ulnar nerve, . . . . .      | 1 |
| Resection of head of humerus, . . . . . | 1 |
| Tapping for ascites, . . . . .          | 7 |

Besides these operations, a large number of minor operations have been performed.

There have been fourteen deaths during the year :

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Phthisis pulmonalis, . . . . .    | 10 |
| Remittent fever, . . . . .        | 1  |
| Pneumonia, . . . . .              | 1  |
| Cirrhosis of the liver, . . . . . | 2  |

There are forty beds in the hospital ward, all of which are at present occupied by the same class of patients that have always filled the Home, viz., chronic cases.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. McARTHUR,

Surgeon to the Home.

### **The Entertainment of Soldiers' Orphans at the Home.**

The Fourth of July, 1866, will never be forgotten by those who joined in its celebration in Philadelphia.

The great feature was the return to the safe-keeping of the Commonwealth the battle-scarred flags which her sons had carried through the war.

It was impossible to look upon these sacred relics without emotion.

They spoke vividly of the lives which had been given to maintain their honor. No less strongly did they bring to memory the orphan children of the devoted men who had followed them.

These "children of the Commonwealth," as they have been beautifully and poetically called, were to take a prominent part in the ceremonies of the day.

Every Soldiers' Orphan Home in the State was represented, and kindly hearts at the Soldiers' Home of Philadelphia had early determined to receive and entertain these young strangers.

This was no light task, as the institution was at the time well filled with inmates. Yet the pleasurable duty was undertaken, and so accomplished as to leave in the young hearts of the children memories of a pleasant and profitable time passed beneath its hospitable roof.

The names of the good ladies who were especially untiring in their efforts for the comfort and entertainment of their young guests are given by a newspaper correspondent of the period, in a little article very properly headed "A Pleasant Visit."

He says: "We were present at the dinner at the Soldiers' Home, 16th and Filbert streets, and which was participated in by some 650 sons and daughters of martyred patriots and 250 wounded inmates of the Home.

"The names of the ladies who were prominent in arranging this pleasing episode in the lives of these little wards of our country are Mrs. Sprigman, Matron, and Mrs. Haddock, Carroll, Hallowell, Blair, King, Winter, Townsend, and Hardie.

"The Rev. Drs. Beadle and Stork offered up a prayer and asked a blessing on the sumptuous meal. The boys were afterwards escorted to the Union League House, having been invited to visit it."

**The “Dayton,” “Milwaukee,” “Hampton,” and  
“Augusta” Homes.**

The fact cannot be made too impressive that “The Soldiers’ Home in the city of Philadelphia” was the first institution to offer a refuge to the returning soldier, after his services at the front were at an end. It preceded the action of the government in this direction, and served in many particulars as a model for those which followed, although, in the perfection of its details and the tender personal interest shown its inmates, it stood alone.

Among the institutions of similar character which grew up in time, we can only mention the Soldiers’ Homes at Dayton, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wis.; Hampton, Va.; and the one at Augusta, Maine; all under government control.

The first two were the institutions selected as the outlet for the surplus inmates of the Soldiers’ Home here; and we have to revert particularly to the last, as, through its unfortunate destruction by fire, January 6th, 1868, many of its inmates became a charge on this institution.

That the application of the government authorities for the Home to take charge of 150 of these men was taxing it very considerably, may be readily understood.

There were 178 inmates in the Home at the time. But hospitality and humanity were the leading characteristics of the Soldiers’ Home, and finally 162 men were received from the Augusta Home, making a total in the Home of some 340 inmates. By judicious weeding out, however, and the transfer of 102 to Dayton, the total number in the Home, February 12th, 1868, was reduced to 224, of which 214 were white and 10 colored.



### The Death of President King.

On September 27th, 1868, when least expected, the death of President King fell upon the Home.

The accompanying preamble and resolutions convey some idea of the loss experienced by his associates at his decease :

“THE BOARD OF MANAGERS of the ‘Soldiers’ Home’ having been called together to receive the announcement of the decease of their President, R. P. King, after suitable and feeling remarks by the members, the following action was unanimously taken :

“As autumn advances, the fruits of the field, having attained their fairest proportions and most beautiful tints, are gathered in. The fallen glory of the tree is for wealth to the gatherers.

“In the social vineyard there is a ripening and a harvest, following not the order of the seasons ; yet ever at the ingathering of death, beauty of character, its maturity and worth are bequeathed as treasures of noble emulation.

“The managers of the Soldiers’ Home convene at this time to receive by official announcement the melancholy information that the President of the Board has been taken hence. In the vigor of manhood, in the midst of public and private usefulness, death has claimed him ; before he is laid in the tomb, we, his colleagues, would pay fitting regards to his memory.

“WHEREAS, Our presiding officer, Robert Pennock King, Esq., departed this life, after a brief illness, on Sunday evening, Sept. 27th, in the fifty-fourth year of his age ; and whereas, in deep sorrow at his loss, we desire to render the last sad respects to his memory, character, and example ; therefore be it

“*Resolved*, That at the name of Robert P. King we will ever re-

call the faithful friend, the patriotic citizen, the efficient co-laborer and the honest man.

“*Resolved*, That in mourning unfeignedly his loss to the country and to a wide circle of friends, we will miss with still deeper grief that genial heartfelt kindness which marked his intercourse with us, and his ready, practical counsel and aid in our deliberations.

“*Resolved*, That we will attend the remains of our President and friend to the grave, as a body, and that we now direct these minutes to be engrossed on our own records, as well as to be published in the papers of the day over the signatures of the officers of the Board.

“*Resolved*, That we will offer to his bereaved family a copy of these proceedings—a tribute of estimation to the departed, and to those he so well loved a token of sincere sympathy in affliction.

JOHN R. BAKER,  
Vice-President.

E. S. HALL,  
Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28, 1868.”

### **The Loyal League of the Women of Chester County,**

During the years of 1863—4, collected eleven hundred dollars for the purpose of furnishing part of a “Soldiers’ Home,” that was proposed to be erected in Pennsylvania. This amount was invested in government bonds, and the interest semi-annually contributed to the support of the temporary Home in Philadelphia.

The officers of the League in charge of this fund, having be-

come satisfied from information received from the Managers of the Soldiers' Home in Philadelphia, that no permanent building would be erected, decided to transfer the amount to the present Home, corner of Sixteenth and Filbert. The subjoined letter acknowledging the receipt of the amount closes the connection of the officers with this fund.

“SOLDIERS' HOME, Dec. 11, 1868.

“MRS. S. H. HEISTER,

On behalf of Mrs. Wm. Darlington, President, Miss C. M. Williamson, Treasurer, Mrs. Price and other members of the ‘Loyal League of Chester County.’

“*Dear Madam:* Your much esteemed favor of the 7th inst., addressed to Mr. William Struthers, is at hand, covering Bond of U. S., No. 187,943, letter D, \$1000; and bond of same, No. 160,084, letter F, \$100; making eleven hundred dollars (\$1100), and being the principal sum of contributions, made for the cause of the Union and its defenders in the years of 1863–4, the interest of which has been sent hitherto to this institution.

“Mr. Struthers, the Chairman of Executive Committee, laid the letter before the Board of Managers of the Home, at their stated meeting of the 9th inst., when the following action was taken: The generous contribution was most gratefully accepted and the letter handed back to the Executive Committee with directions to make a suitable reply. It was further resolved that a certificate of honorary membership be made out in favor of the ‘Loyal League of the Women of Chester County,’ and sent for their acceptance.

“Permit me then, in performance of this pleasing duty, to offer to the noble-minded ladies of the League, who in time of danger

to our beloved country, bore in their hearts the sufferings of the country's defenders, and when the danger had over-past forgot them not, the highest regards and most grateful thanks of the Managers of the Soldiers' Home.

“With great respect, Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. BAKER,

Pres. of Board and Sec. Ex. Com.

“The operations of this institution go back far into the years of the war, when an active interest prevailed over the land for the welfare of the sick and wounded. This Home was the *first asylum* of the disabled volunteer in the country, and its benefits have ever been dispensed without reference to State boundaries.

“The interest of the public is not now so manifest, yet the ‘Soldiers’ Home’ is carried on and watched over with zealous care.

“Under its present charter and in its present location, the following may be given as

A SUMMARY.

|                                                                                           |           |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Number of men registered up to Jan. 1, 1867,                                              | . . .     | 723  |
| “ “ “ during 1867,                                                                        | . . .     | 687  |
| “ “ “ “ 1868,                                                                             | . . .     | 676  |
| “ received after the destruction of the U. S. Military Hospital Branch at Augusta, Maine, |           | 168  |
| Total,                                                                                    | . . . . . | 2354 |

“Changes occur daily in the house. Many apply for *temporary* relief and treatment. The average number of inmates residing

in the Home is 200, though at this date the population is considerably less, being confined chiefly to two classes of inmates, viz.: Hospital Patients and Pupils of the Schools.

“The large, flourishing establishments maintained by Congress at Dayton, Ohio, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have absorbed most of the other classes of inmates.

JOHN R. BAKER,

Sec. Ex. Com.”

Thus, by infinite tact, great judgment, and laborious devotion had the Home attained an eminence among charities such as few have ever reached.

The path adopted had been faithfully pursued until the institution became a model. It is true that the path did not always lie amid flowers. A body of ladies and gentlemen, rich in intellectual culture, and for the greater part, of position and means, had given their personal services for months and years. At length they could look upon their work at its maximum of beneficence.

The inmates at this period averaged about 200, and the cases of temporary relief by meals, transportation, etc., as well as help to outside applicants were numerous and incessant.

The Soldiers' Home was a veritable home for the worthy disabled defender of his country. Even the usual home holidays or festive occasions were remembered by the kind Board of Lady Visitors, and Christmas and Thanksgiving brought the same good cheer that they had, perhaps, known in earlier and happier years. The “Fourth of July,” essentially the soldiers' day, was one always well marked at the “Home.” Amusements, too, were not wanting. The genial Signor Blitz came at times to



amuse them. Concerts were given, and the Home made a happy one, so far as kind hearts could make it so.

Although in the matter of discipline no other agent was invoked than the honor of the inmates, its inner arrangements, rules, and system became an acknowledged model.

Nor can one wonder at this when we come to review the personal supervision given it by its promoters and officers. We feel prepared to state that no public charity, before or since, has ever been more faithfully and personally supervised by its officers, its Board of Managers, its Lady Visitors, and more particularly by its Executive Committee, who met daily for years; and its worthy and energetic Chairman, Mr. Walter Allison, was ever faithful in the discharge of his duties. There was not a night, no matter what other duties called, that he did not spend at least an hour at the "Home," investigating the applications for admission, the fairness of dismissals, or the many wants of the Home and its inmates.

Under the by-laws the Board of Managers were to meet monthly, but there were very many special meetings, which were always subject to the call of the President, or of any three members of the Board; while the duties of the Ladies' Visiting Committee and of the Executive Committee were performed *daily*.

But as years glided by, many of the inmates of the Home were sufficiently restored in health and *morale* to be self-sustaining. Many had been educated in light occupations and procured situations. Many, alas, had died, and the general absorption of the class for which it was especially created, now left the institution but comparatively little to do.

As early as 1868, a proposition to place the Home in the care of the Managers of the National Asylum at Washington, "pro-

vided they would continue it at or near Philadelphia," had failed through declination of said Managers upon the ground "that it would be antagonistic to the principle of centralization which they had adopted."

In the meantime the building occupied by the Home at the corner of Filbert and 16th streets had been purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and at a special meeting, held February 29th, 1871, Messrs. Allison, Struthers, and Baker, of the Executive Committee, were appointed a Special Committee "to take charge of matters both as to the Pennsylvania R.R. Co., and as to the Legislature."

Various plans were proposed and discussed regarding the future of the Home.

Under these circumstances it was thought by many that the work could and ought to end right there.

But there are spirits who are never weary of well doing. Prominent in this regard was Chairman Allison, who now, in conjunction with Messrs. Struthers, Baker, Rhawn, Hall, Francis, Howell, and others, decided upon taking care of the soldiers' orphans when the soldiers themselves had passed from their charge.

Legal investigation of the charter showed that it contained ample powers to warrant the incorporators, officers and managers in carrying out this beneficent scheme. A special meeting for February 19th, 1872, was advertised; Mr. Henry C. Howell, long and favorably known in connection with the Home, was called to the chair, and Mr. E. S. Hall appointed Secretary, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Francis, Haddock, Allison, Hardie and Kelly, to which, on motion, the President and Secretary were added, was appointed "*to report a plan of continuing or*

*closing the Home, and provide for the sick in Hospitals or otherwise, if deemed expedient."*

The result was that at an adjourned meeting, held March 11th, 1872, the following resolutions were presented and passed :

"WHEREAS, The work of caring for the disabled soldier is now amply provided for by the U. S. Government, your committee are impressed with the fact, that the time has now arrived that this Board should turn its attention to the care of the children of such soldiers and seamen, as provided by the Act of Incorporation ; they therefore recommend to the Board of Managers the following resolutions :

"*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be instructed to vacate the present premises on or before the first day of June next.

"*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be directed to send such inmates as in their judgment may be proper persons, to the National Asylums.

"*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be directed to procure a suitable building for such soldiers as cannot bear the fatigue of removal to the National Asylums.

"*Resolved*, That no more soldiers be admitted to the Home, but they may be provided with transportation to the Government Asylums by the Executive Committee.

"*Resolved*, That accommodations be provided for '*the relief, support and education of the children of soldiers and seamen who have been honorably discharged from the service of the United States, and of such soldiers and seamen as may have died in said service.*' (Charter, Sec. 3.)

"*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee be authorized to provide a suitable building, to be known as '*THE CHILDRENS*'

BRANCH OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME,' to be continued under the present Board of Managers and their successors."

At the same meeting a Committee was appointed to secure a suitable building for the future use of the Home, which reported, June 1st, 1872, "that a lease on a suitable house had been made, it being a large frame building No. 3947 Market Street." And preparations were at once made to move.

### **A Memorable Meeting.**

The adjourned Special Meeting of June 11th, 1872, was a memorable one. It was, so to speak, the breaking up of the old Institution, and the birth of its new branch.

The old Board of Managers as well as the officers were to be changed, and in some cases separated after years of companionship in well-doing. And it was certainly with a sense of the closeness to each other, which their mutual interest in the Home had developed, that they were assembled that night.

Deservedly complimentary remarks were made regarding the manner in which the officers and Boards had exercised their powers.

In no case were these testimonials more warmly and unanimously endorsed than were the remarks offered by the lamented William Struthers.

Mr. Struthers, taking advantage of the worthy Secretary's temporary absence, said: "That before the present Board give place to its successors who might not be cognizant of the circumstances of the case about to be presented, he was extremely desirous that some recognition should be made of the services

of the Secretary and formerly acting Treasurer Mr. E. S. Hall, WITH WHOM EMINENTLY THE IDEA OF THE HOME ORIGINATED.

“From small beginnings, and with narrow means, he labored long and earnestly and effectually.

“To him is due the establishment of the first institution in this country for the relief of disabled volunteers, and he has steadily and laboriously pursued this object.”

Mr. Struthers, from whose lips these words gained an additional value, for he “knew whereof he spake,” then continued, dwelling upon the years voluntarily given, of the most laborious and burdensome part of the work which fell upon the officials of such an institution, and finally presented some warmly endorsed and honorable resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Resolutions were also adopted, accepting with regret the resignation of Dr. J. A. McArthur, who for six years had faithfully and honorably filled the office of Surgeon for the Home.

His report will show the number and character of the cases and operations which came beneath his kind and skilful care.

### **The Home at No. 3947 Market Street.**

Part of the subsequent history of the Home may be gleaned from the report of the Board of Managers, dated May 11th, 1874.

### **Report of Board of Managers.**

“TO THE CONTRIBUTORS OF THE SOLDIERS’ HOME IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

“The Board of Managers whose term of office is now about to expire respectfully report, that upon taking charge of the Home



one year ago, they found 13 men in the house located at No. 3947 Market Street, West Philadelphia.

“The General Government having made ample provision for its soldiers in the Asylums organized in various parts of the country under the management of its own officers, and where the soldier is provided for, to a much greater extent, than the limited means of our Home will permit, your Board after mature consideration decided that more satisfactory results could be reached by extending our charities to the children of soldiers—for whom no provision has been made by the General Government—than to continue it to the soldiers themselves.

“With this end in view, your Board invited, in July last, a committee of eminent physicians, consisting of Drs. W. W. Keen, S. W. Mitchell and D. C. McCune, Surgeon at the Home, to examine into the condition of the men in the Home and report to the Board as to their fitness for transfer to the National Asylum at Dayton, Ohio.

“Upon receiving a favorable report from the Committee, all the men who desired to go were removed to Dayton, and those remaining were provided for here.

“Counsel was then sought as to the power of the Board under the charter to provide for the children of soldiers, and having received a satisfactory opinion on this subject, your Board in July, 1873, ordered the house to be prepared for the reception of children (boys), of honorably discharged living or deceased soldiers, and shortly after 23 boys were admitted.

“The house being much out of repair, and the accommodations being so limited, with no means of improving them, only at a

very large outlay—your Board considered the propriety of making some arrangement with an Institution already organized with ample facilities to provide for children placed under its care, and in a much more economical manner than it was possible for the Board to do.

“Counsel was again sought, and finding no legal difficulties in the way, your Board entered into an agreement with the Educational Home for Boys, incorporated under the laws of this State, to take charge, educate, support and clothe thirty-five (35) children (boys) for a period of ten years, upon the payment of the sum of thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000). According to the terms of the agreement hereto attached, on the 22d day of December, 1873, twenty-three (23) boys were placed in charge of the Educational Home for Boys.

“Since that date, eleven (11) boys have been admitted under the approval of the Board, making the total number in the Educational Home at this date thirty-four (34) with one (1) vacancy yet to be filled.

“In making these changes in the operations of the Home, your Board have had but one thought in view—that your charities should be so dispensed as to result in the greatest amount of good to those for whom its benefits were intended.

“Your Board has been unanimous in its action upon these changes, and they think the final result will show the wisdom of the course adopted.

“The Home on Market Street has been closed, the Library has been presented to the National Asylum, at Dayton, the household furniture sold and the proceeds paid over to the Treasurer.

|                                                     |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| The expenses during the year have been . . . . .    | \$3,842 64     |
| And there has been paid to the Educational Home for |                |
| Boys under the agreement, . . . . .                 | 36,000 00      |
| Leaving a cash balance on hand of . . . . .         | \$547 05       |
| And securities, City 6's, . . . . .                 | 7,000 00       |
|                                                     | <hr/> 7,547 05 |

“All of which is respectfully submitted by order of the Board of Managers.

A. H. FRANCISCUS,  
President.

E. S. HALL,  
Secretary.”

At the stated meeting held January 13th, 1875, the Executive Committee reported that there were 38 children, wards of the Soldiers' Home, happily placed at the Educational Home. And thus the good work went on.

During these years the Soldiers' Home was not entirely forgotten by its patrons and kind friends. May 1st, 1875, through the Executors of the Estate of Mrs. Ann Walker, deceased, \$446 was received, with the notice that the whole amount would probably sum up \$1000 for the benefit of the Home. An indemnity bond was given by the President, as there were some small claims out against the Estate.

Nor was the first object of the Institution lost sight of, in the discharge of its later duties.

Mr. Walter Allison, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, was ever on the alert to assist his old friends—the soldiers. Through his endeavors all honorably discharged soldiers, who applied for admission to the Home, were taken care of for the time being, and furnished transportation to some one of the

National Asylums. Mr. William Struthers may be here spoken of in this connection, as deserving to be honored. Indeed, as one of his co-laborers expressed it, "he had the kindest heart in behalf of the soldier, of any man I ever knew."

Unfortunately the Home was soon called upon to mourn the death of this most excellent officer and friend. The heart-felt Resolutions of respect and esteem cannot be supplemented by any words of the editor. The Resolutions were presented by Mr. John R. Baker, another steadfast worker in the cause.

"The Board of Managers of the Soldiers' Home have heard with deep regret of the departure from this life of one of its valued and most useful members. Mr. William Struthers, Treasurer of the Home, breathed his last on Tuesday, November 21st, in the sixty-third year of his age.

"It is in every way becoming that a suitable remembrance be made and set on record of one of the first of those who devised and established this institution, and whose efforts in its interests and in those of the soldier and his children have been untiring and effective. Firm in the right, judicious of counsel, and most courteous in demeanor, he has endeared himself to all with whom he was associated. Mr. Struthers was indeed among men, a man! And his kindly nature and undeviating uprightness have at length marked his end in peace."

"*Resolved*, That the foregoing be inscribed on the minutes in token of profound respect and tender memory.

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to convey to Mr. Struthers' family a copy of the above, with the assurances of the sympathy of the Board in their deep sorrow."

The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Struthers, necessitated the selection of another gentleman to fill his place as Treasurer.

To this responsible position Mr. Andrew Blair was unanimously chosen.

It was felt that the mantle of honesty and nobleness of nature which the many-years Treasurer had left behind him, could be worthily placed upon this gentleman's shoulders.

"Harking baek," as hunters say, in our minute book, it there appears that as early as December 7th, 1875, Mr. Allison stated the object of the special meeting of that date to be "to make some provision for the care of girls, ehildren of soldiers."

And here we must note the fact that this Institution did not confine its advantages to the ehildren of soldiers bereaved of one or both parents; but nobly and broadly took eharge of such ehildren whose parents were still living.

In this respect it is believed to be the only charitable institution throughout this country, at that time, which exhibited such breadth of well-doing.

To Mr. Walter Allison, who has been the continuous chairman of the Exeeutive Committee for over eleven years, too much praise cannot be given for his constant personal supervision and individual interest given at this time in behalf of these soldiers' children.

The editor of this history has had occasion to make frequent mention of his name, and mark his zeal and devotion to the best interests of the Home. From him came the first suggestion, leading to the support and education of soldiers' ehildren—being far in advance of Government projects of a like nature.

The Board of Managers approving Mr. Allison's suggestions, "an arrangement was made with the West Philadelphia Home, Forty-first and Baring streets, to support and educate five (5) girls."



All these points, like in the first establishment of the Home itself, had to be experimented upon and thought out. Ultimately an arrangement was entered into, by which boys were to remain at the "Educational Home" until they were twelve years of age, after which they were to be transferred to the "Lincoln Institution" (then under charge of Miss Mary McHenry), where the larger boys were educated—until they attained the proper age and qualifications to engage in suitable occupations. Those who were thus engaged were still taken care of by the Institution, and paid to it, in part support of themselves, the sum of two dollars (\$2) per week.

This plan worked admirably, until a change was made at the Lincoln Institution; and many of the boys earned for themselves honorable beginnings in the business world. And it need not be added that the interest felt in them by their guardian—the Soldiers' Home—has not lessened, and never ceases to exert itself in their behalf.

As the number of these wards varied at each of these institutions, as changes were made, we give such items as will afford some idea of the operations of the Home at this time. Thus: in a newspaper clipping from the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, we find that on May 12th, 1880, the Home had 46 boys in the Educational Home, 10 in Lincoln Home, and 2 girls in the West Philadelphia Home.

At the stated meeting of June 13th, 1883, the Executive Committee reported 51 boys in Educational Home and 2 girls in West Philadelphia Home; while the report of the Educational Home, made May 14th, 1884, gives the number of the Soldiers' Home boys then in that Institution, as 42.

### Summary.

The one single point in which the records of the Soldiers' Home appear to be wanting, is in the failure to display or properly note, the full extent of the labors of the working managers of this institution, or the extent of the good accomplished. Dwelling upon this latter fact merely, there were very many cases of succor and temporary relief never recorded. "Outside" cases of assistance, of which there were hundreds, find no note. Hospitalities extended to thousands of soldiers' orphans, to arriving and returning regiments, though warmly acknowledged, in some instances, in the newspapers of the day, are almost without record in the books of the institution.

The following figures can only be accepted, therefore, with the understanding that they are correct so far as it is possible under the circumstances to attain to the truth.

By them it appears that the total number of men admitted to the Soldiers' Home of Philadelphia, from September, 1863, to November 4th, 1873, was 3535.

Total number of soldiers' orphans admitted to "The Educational Home," on account of the Soldiers' Home, 154.

One hundred of these boys were retained in the Educational Home but were placed on the State Government's roll.

*Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home from  
July, 1862, to April, 1865.*

RECEIPTS:

|                                    |           |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| From life-members, . . . . .       | \$1200 00 |             |
| “ donations, . . . . .             | 6019 73   |             |
| “ fairs, . . . . .                 | 6342 67   |             |
| “ State of Pennsylvania, . . . . . | 3750 00   |             |
| “ Sanitary Commission, . . . . .   | 500 00    |             |
| “ interest and premiums, . . . . . | 753 25    |             |
|                                    | <hr/>     | \$18,565 65 |

|                                                                    |       |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Expenditures during the same period<br>for all purposes, . . . . . | <hr/> | \$11,286 48 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|

Balance transferred to the Soldiers' Home, April, 1865:

|                        |          |            |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Cash, . . . . .        | \$279 17 |            |
| U. S. bonds, . . . . . | 7000 00  |            |
|                        | <hr/>    | \$7,279 17 |

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditures of the Soldiers' Home in the City of Philadel-  
phia from April, 1865, to July, 1885.*

RECEIPTS:

|                                            |            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| From Cooper Shop Soldiers' Home, . . . . . | \$7,279 17 |              |
| “ donations, . . . . .                     | 19,024 85  |              |
| “ fairs, . . . . .                         | 133,971 76 |              |
| “ State of Pennsylvania, . . . . .         | 18,250 00  |              |
| “ legacies, . . . . .                      | 19,624 50  |              |
| “ interest and premiums, . . . . .         | 53,044 53  |              |
| “ membership, . . . . .                    | 2,559 00   |              |
|                                            | <hr/>      | \$253,753 81 |

|                                                             |       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Expenses during the same period for all purposes, . . . . . | <hr/> | 250,536 76 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|

|                                                          |            |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Leaving balance in the hands of the Treasurer, . . . . . | \$3,217 05 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|

### **In Memoriam.**

In the list of life-members to be found at the end of this volume note is made of the deceased members. Each and all of them are worthy of extended notice, did not want of space forbid. Each had his particular usefulness, which the requirements of the Home called upon, and never without response.

Glorious is their record in well-doing !

More recently the Home has suffered great loss in the death of the Hon. Charles Gibbons.

Mr. Gibbons had long been the solicitor for this institution, and in that capacity, as well as during the many years he had acted with the Board of Managers, had done invaluable service. His high social standing, together with his intimate acquaintance and friendship with the eminent public men of the time—aside from his distinguished talents as a jurist—gave weight and importance to his connection with the Home ; while his philanthropic nature and thorough patriotism found in it a work in accord with his best impulses. It was he who was selected to make application for the charter of this institution, and he was still an active member and warm in its service, when he passed away to that reward which is insured to a noble life.

### **The Soldiers' Monument.**

As early as October 13th, 1869, we find by reference to the minutes, the action of the Executive Committee in purchasing a lot in Mount Moriah Cemetery approved, and instructions given to have the same inclosed and improved.

Before that time the Home had had the use of the old Cooper

Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon lot in the same cemetery. Very many of those dying, however, were buried by their friends in their own denominational grounds. Now it was proposed to have, as far as possible, one general burial lot for the inmates who should succumb to disease or the effects of old wounds. It was also decided to erect a suitable monument to these men who were, in every way, as worthy of being honored as if they had fallen in actual battle.

Several designs for a monument were submitted to the Executive Committee, but it was felt that a fine statue of a soldier suited best as a memorial intended not to honor some great general or other officer, but to perpetuate the memory of men in the ranks who had died in their country's cause.

At the stated meeting, held June 13th, 1883, the Executive Committee was authorized to contract with Heaton & Bro.—a Philadelphia firm having a national reputation—"for a bronze figure of a soldier, and to arrange with the Philadelphia Granite Company for a granite base for same."

The result is a noble statue in bronze of a soldier at parade-rest. The figure is 7 feet 2 inches in height, and stands upon a perfectly proportioned base about 3 feet square at the bottom, and 9 feet high, giving an altitude to the whole work of 16 feet 2 inches.

The workmanship is perfect in every detail and particular; the color of the bronze golden and rich, and the *pose* and general effect of the figure has been pronounced by art critics as fine as any similar statue in this country. The life-like character of the form and features is the chief merit of this fine statue, and one which, of itself, places it high in the scale of art.

May 12th, 1884, the Executive Committee were able to report that the monument had been placed in position in the lot at Mount Moriah Cemetery, and preparations were made for its dedication. Invitations were sent to many distinguished gentlemen, and about 300 soldiers' orphans were expected to take part in the ceremonies. A distinguished and eloquent soldier and citizen, Colonel A. Loudon Snowden, agreed, likewise, to deliver the oration of the occasion. Civil and military bodies were invited to take part in the ceremonies, and, in short, everything was done to make the event impressive and memorable. The 23d day of October, 1884, was the day selected, and although the weather was so inclement, there being a constant down-pour of rain, the dedication—this "CROWNING ACT" of the years of noble work done by the Soldiers' Home—was successfully achieved in spite of every obstacle, under the careful supervision of Chairman Allison.

The following spirited account of this event, as well as the faithful report of Colonel Snowden's eloquent and inspiring oration, is from the *Daily Evening Telegraph* of that date.

### Unveiling

#### THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT IN MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY DEDICATED—IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the soldiers' monument in Mount Moriah Cemetery this afternoon, took place according to the programme. At 2.30 P.M. the military and civic bodies who took part in the unveiling ceremonies assembled at the entrance to the cemetery, and formed in line under the marshal-



ship of General James L. Selfridge, and proceeded to the spot on which the monument is erected. The procession consisted of a detachment of military, delegates from the different posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Keystone Battery, officers of the Soldiers' Home, and other organizations, the whole preceded by a full military band.

On arriving at the monument the procession formed around it, and the ceremonies commenced with a prayer by the Rev. John Hemphill, followed by a dirge by the band, after which the ceremony of unveiling took place, which was performed by four of the soldiers' orphans connected with the Home.

#### COLONEL SNOWDEN'S ORATION.

The Keystone Battery then fired a salute, when the band performed another selection, after which Colonel A. Loudon Snowden delivered the following oration :

“One of the most remarkable and characteristic institutions that sprang up in our city, as a natural outgrowth of the war of the Rebellion, was the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon. This organization, in its beginnings, its aims, its sources of revenue, and in the means employed to promote the comfort, happiness, and well-being of our soldiers and sailors, is, I think, without a parallel among the many beneficent works performed by the loyal men and women of other cities during that trying period.

“It has always been characteristic of Philadelphia to extend generous hospitality to those who come within her gates, and it was only natural for her loyal citizens to extend a hearty welcome to the sons of her own and other States who were passing through her streets on their march to the defence of an im-

perilled country. What was at first the spontaneous and kindly act of a portion of her people residing on or near the line of march of the passing troops, shortly became an organized association of patriotic men and women, into whose treasury citizens of all classes and conditions, in all parts of the city, poured their willing contributions, thus enabling it to provide healthful food and drink for over six hundred thousand men, besides the tender and skilful care bestowed upon many thousands of the sick and wounded.

“ Its first thought was to provide comforts for those who were on their march to the front. Its second and sacred duty was to care for the wounded and sick, returning from battle-fields, from the fever swamps and loathsome prisons of the South. In this last charity the ‘Cooper Shop’ and the ‘Soldiers’ Home’ engaged about the same time. The former, in a short time, recognizing the efficiency of the organization under whose auspices we are assembled to-day, abandoned that branch of the work, and handed over all the funds in its possession, subscribed for that specific purpose, and confined its labors to its original purpose, that of ministering to the hungry and thirsty, going and returning from the war. Thus, in 1863, began the blessed work of the Soldiers’ Home of Philadelphia.

“ The patriotic and charitable impulse that called this noble institution into being reflects the highest credit upon human nature.

“ Its work was not confined to healing the wounded body, but in bringing comfort to the weary spirit.

“ It befriended those who needed friends.

“ It gave a home to those who were either homeless or far from home.

“ Its far-reaching charities were not confined to citizens of a single State, but were, with a generous and catholic spirit, bestowed upon all soldiers of the Republic, without regard to color or creed, who were in need of assistance.

“ The work it performed in the cause of patriotism and Christian charity will illustrate one of the brightest pages in the history of our great city, so justly celebrated the world over for the number and diversity of her charitable institutions.

“ The record of its good works would fill a volume. I can give but a passing glance at its pages. From 1864 until 1873 it sheltered and cared for 3535 sick and wounded soldiers and sailors.

“ When that charitable work was ended, it reached forth its arms to protect, provide for, and educate the children of such as had died or had been disabled in the service.

“ Of this class 135 have been admitted to the privileges and blessings of a home, where disinterested sympathy and kindness inspired every act of those in authority.

“ This generous and noble work is almost completed, largely owing to the provisions of the general government towards the same end.

“ Republics may be ungrateful, but surely the great Republic of the West has been anything but forgetful of or ungrateful to those who risked their lives for the honor of her flag and the maintenance of her power.

“ The widow and orphan have been generously provided for, and the maimed and disabled more liberally pensioned than have been the soldiers of any other country in the history of the world.

“ Having provided for the sick and wounded, and for the

orphans of the soldier, this noble institution, as a crowning act in its bright career, now turns its attention to the dead, whose dust for years it has been carefully guarding within these sacred precincts ; and here, to-day, in honor for those who perished for their country, it has unveiled this beautiful monument, erected by generous contributions for a patriotic purpose. It will stand here through the coming generations to mark the spot where these patriots sleep, and indicate the appreciation in which their services were held by their countrymen.

“ The student of history as he reads of battles and sieges—of the overthrow of dynasties and the downfall of governments—of the upbuilding of colossal empires, based upon the subjugation of peoples and of states—cannot but observe how little account was taken, in the olden time, of the wishes, the welfare, or the happiness of the people. He also notes, as he reads of the great wars for conquest and empire, how little is said of the common soldier, upon whose zeal, discipline, and courage the victory depended, whilst much honor and praise is bestowed upon the successful leader, whose brow is decked with laurel, and oftentimes with kingly crowns.

“ It is much the same in monarchical governments at the present time.

“ Rarely is great public honor bestowed upon the common soldiers of a victorious army, but always upon its leaders ; costly monuments are often erected by the munificence of governments, seldom to the soldiers in the ranks, nearly always to the general, the prince, or the king.

“ How different with us ! Under our popular form of government, the underlying thought and purpose of nearly all political

and social movements is to elevate and benefit the masses of the people.

“We have honored and do honor our leaders, I fear sometimes not to their just deserving, or as it would be well for us to do—as I esteem a respect and reverence for the great and good, a valuable conservative element in human society—but the constant tendency of our institutions is to aggrandize the mass at the expense of individuals.

“We have, at the National Capital and elsewhere, erected memorials to perpetuate the names and fame of great citizens, who have rendered important public services, but a vast majority of the monuments in the towns and cities of the several States, like the one before us, were erected by popular subscription, to give an enduring expression of the love and gratitude of the people towards the rank and file of the great army whose patriotic valor preserved popular government on this continent.

“The dead who slumber here came from many States and from other countries. Here the sons of the far Northwest and Northeast lie buried together, as well as those from the South, West, and Middle States—gallant sons of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, and New Jersey mingle their dust.

“Here, also, are men from other lands, the Teuton and the Celt, from the far-off Fatherland and from the Emerald Isle of the sea, seeking freedom and homes in a new land. They offered up their lives that freedom might remain the inheritance of this people through the coming ages.

“It was fitting and well that in the great struggle for the maintenance of free institutions on this continent, the peoples of other lands should sympathize and coöperate with us.



“The philosophical bearings and far-reaching influences of that mighty struggle, which involved the sacrifice of so many noble lives, and of such vast treasure, are only beginning to be appreciated by the world at large. It was not alone the upholding of the American Union that was involved in the result. On the contrary, it was the preservation of the jewel of liberty—the maintenance of the dignity of labor—the manhood and freedom of man, in which the peoples of all lands are as deeply interested as are we. With us it was the second war of Independence—another effort of the people to emancipate themselves and their country from old and barbarous conditions. For the world at large it was another step in the march of civilization and humanity.

“To us the success of our arms meant freedom at home and the preservation of national life and honor. To the down-trodden and oppressed of other lands, our triumph was a vindication of the right and capacity of man for self-government, and clearly heralded their own ultimate emancipation and enfranchisement, which, God grant, may not be long deferred.

“The dedication of this beautiful monument, with all the attendant ceremonies, although primarily intended to honor the dead, is much more significant and valuable as a lesson to the living. The dead who slumber here have performed their allotted work, and performed it well. Their task is ended. Nothing that we can say or do, be it never so heartfelt and sincere, can be of the slightest moment to them.

“These services and ceremonies address themselves to the living. They teach of self-sacrifice, love of liberty, love of country, and obedience to the law and to the call of duty whenever made on us. This is the lesson that present and future



generations should learn from the lives, services, and self-sacrifice of the men over whose sacred dust we unveil this monument to-day, dedicated forever to their honor, heroism, and patriotism.”

There was additional music by the band, when the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. R. A. Edwards, after which those assembled, marshalled by General James L. Selfridge, retired from the cemetery grounds and took conveyances provided for them, and returned to the city.

The monument is erected on the lot owned by the Soldiers' Home, and cost \$2450. It has a granite base 9 feet high, surmounted by a bronze figure of a soldier 7 feet in height, and standing at rest. Over sixty dead soldiers are interred in the lot, and a large number of the soldiers' orphans took part in the ceremonies.

Considering the state of the weather to-day, the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the monument were of a very impressive and successful character.

During the unveiling ceremony the pedestal of the monument was covered with the original American flag that floated from the roof of the old Cooper Shop Refreshment Saloon, near Front Street and Washington Avenue, during the Rebellion.

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### Conclusion.

Thus we have traced to a grand and triumphant conclusion, the history of an institution which was the first in the United States to furnish a Home for disabled soldiers, and the first to care for and educate their children.

It is enough to say merely this. But it would be injustice to the living and the dead, if we were not, on parting, to make honorable mention of the life-members of the Home. The list is therefore added.

Each and every one who has interested himself or herself in this great work should, if space permitted, be personally mentioned—for they are worthy of it. Of course this could not be done. The only thing possible has been to dedicate this book to these friends, and, in so doing, to express the hearty thanks which the soldiers and their children would themselves give if it were in their power to speak them.

Such thanks are blessings—and such will follow the officers managers, committeemen, and noble lady visitors, as well as the subscribers and friends of “The Soldiers’ Home.”

## Life Members.

---

Allison, Walter.

Antelo, A. J.

Axe, William W.

Bailey, Joel J.

Baird, John.

Baker, Charles H. (dec'd).

Baker, John R.

Baldwin, M. W. (dec'd).

Barritt, Rev. Benjamin F.

Bartol, Mrs. E. J.

Bayard, James.

Bement, William B.

Benson, Mrs. Anna C.

Benson, Alexander (dec'd).

Benson, R. W.

Biddle, Clement.

Biddle, Mrs. H. J.

Blair, Andrew.

Booz, Edward G. (dec'd).

Borie, Edward.

Brown, Frederick (dec'd).

Brown, Joseph.

Brown, Mary D. (dec'd).

Caldwell, J. E. (dec'd).

Carstairs, James, Jr.

Carstairs, James, Sr. (dec'd).

Childs, George W.

Churchman, Charles W. (dec'd).

Claghorn, James L. (dec'd).

Clark, E. W.

Clarke, J. S.

Clyde, W. P.

Coffin, William.

Colket, Coffin (dec'd).

Collins, Frederick.

Cope, Caleb.

Cox, James S.

Crump, John.

David, Mrs. Benjamin.

David, Mrs. Hugh.

Dawson, T. Russell.

Desauque, Charles L. (dec'd).

Divine, William (dec'd).

Donaldson, Sophia.

Drexel, A. J.

Dutilh, Charles (dec'd).

Ellis, Amos R.

Evans, Mrs. C.

Fell, J. Gillingham (dec'd).

Flanigan, J. M. (dec'd).

Flanigan, S.

Franciscus, A. H.

Garsed, Harry T.

Gibbons, Hon. Charles (dec'd).

Gilbert, Dr. D. (dec'd).

Gilbert, Miss.

Graham, John.

Grigg, John (dec'd).

Gurnsey, Mrs.

Haddock, Daniel, Jr.

Haines, J. R.

Hall, E. S.

Hammill, W. E.

Hand, James C. (dec'd).

Hardie, James G.

Harmer, William (dec'd).

Hart, Mrs. Dr. A. C.

Hart, A. (dec'd).

Hart, A. C. (M.D.).

Haseltine, John (dec'd).

Hastings, F. W.

Helmuth, Henry (dec'd).

Holland, Mrs. N.

Holme, Charles T.

Howell, H. C. (dec'd).

Hoyt, H. F. (dec'd).

Hulme, John (dec'd).

Hutchinson, J. P.

Ingham, W. A.

Irwin, W.

Jeanes, Joseph.

Jessup, A. D. (dec'd).

Jones, Mrs.

Joy, Maurice.

Kelly, E. P.

Kennedy, Mrs. F. H.

Kern, W. H.

King, Robert P. (dec'd).

Knight, Edward C.

Lammont, Daniel, Jr. (dec'd).

Leaming, J. F.

Lea, H. C.

Lewis, Edwin M. (dec'd).

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lewis, R. A.                    | Peabody, George F. (dec'd). |
| Lewis, Saunders.                | Paul, Mrs. James W.         |
| Lewis, W. D. (dec'd).           | Pepper, George S.           |
| Lobdell, Mrs. George G.         | Powers, Thomas H. (dec'd).  |
| Locke, Z. (dec'd).              | Rhawn, William H.           |
| Longstreth, Miss M. A. (dec'd). | Riter, G. W.                |
| McCreary, J. B. (dec'd).        | Robinson, D. M. (dec'd).    |
| McKonkey, Mrs.                  | Rodgers, Evan (dec'd).      |
| M'Michael, Morton (dec'd).      | Rogers, Charles H. (dec'd). |
| M'Michael, Walter.              | Rogers, Prof. R. E., M.D.   |
| Macalester, Charles (dec'd).    | Rowland, Benjamin, Jr.      |
| Mann, W. B.                     | Rowland, Harvey, Jr.        |
| Martin, James H.                | Rowland, Maxwell (dec'd).   |
| Martin, James J.                | Rutter, Clem. S. (dec'd).   |
| Massey, Mrs. R. V., Sr.         | Scott, Rev. A.              |
| Matzinger, M. H.                | Sellers, William.           |
| Maxwell, J. G. (dec'd).         | Seybert, Henry (dec'd).     |
| Maxwell, R. A.                  | Shaw, E. T.                 |
| Megear, Thomas J. (dec'd).      | Shoenberger, Mrs. (dec'd).  |
| Mercer, J. C. (dec'd).          | Smith, Daniel, Jr. (dec'd). |
| Miller, Reuben, Jr.             | Smith, George P.            |
| Moore, Hon. Henry D.            | Smith, John F.              |
| Morris, Stephen (dec'd).        | Smyth, Lindley.             |
| Morton, Samuel C. (dec'd).      | Souder, E. A. (dec'd).      |
| Myers, J. B. (dec'd).           | Souder, Stephen T. (dec'd). |
| Nichols, George A.              | Sparks, Mrs. Eliza (dec'd). |
| O'Neill, Hon. Charles.          | Starr, Isaac (dec'd).       |
| Orne, James H. (dec'd).         | Stewardson, T., Jr.         |
|                                 | Stewart, W. S.              |

Struthers, William (dec'd).

Stuart, George H.

Swift, Joseph (dec'd).

Thomas, S. B.

Tobias, J. F.

Tobias, Mrs. J. F.

Townsend, J. B.

Tracy, E.

Triebels, Charles H. R.

Trott, George.

Vetterlein, T. H. (dec'd).

Wallace, Ellerslie, M.D. (dec'd).

Welsh, Wilson.

Wetherill, George D. (dec'd).

Wetherill, Mrs. G. D. (dec'd).

Wheeler, Charles (dec'd).

Whilldin, Alexander.

Whilldin, Alexander, Jr.

Whilldin, Leaming.

White, Ambrose (dec'd).

White, S. S. (dec'd).

Wood, Bishop (dec'd).

Wood, George B., M.D. (dec'd).



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|                          |   |   |   |   |   |           |
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| ROBERT P. KING,          | . | . | . | . | . | 1868      |
| JOHN R. BAKER,           | . | . | . | . | . | 1869-1871 |
| JOSEPH JEANES,           | . | . | . | . | . | 1872      |
| JOHN R. BAKER,           | . | . | . | . | . | 1873      |
| A. H. FRANCISCUS,        | . | . | . | . | . | 1874-1875 |
| WILLIAM H. RHAWN,        | . | . | . | . | . | 1876-1886 |

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